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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Meets, Marks 50th Anniversary

League Chief 'Abd-al-Majid Speaks

NC2203143595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0908 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Speech by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid marking the Arab League's 50th anniversary at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Mr. Chairman of the current session, Your Excellencies the foreign ministers; ladies and gentlemen. May God's peace and prayer be with you.

It gives me pleasure to welcome Your Excellencies to the house of the Arabs—the Arab League—as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this edifice built on the foundations of solidarity, cooperation, protection of Arab interests, and concern to consolidate the many ties among our Arab countries in the interest of the Arab nation's welfare, progress, and security.

Mr. President. The large Arab family is meeting on this historic occasion which you have honored us by attending. We remember with pride and gratitude the first generation of the leaders of this nation who felt its sentiments, expressed its ambitions, and built this edifice which has preserved its identity for the nation. This edifice is a fortress on which hopes are pinned and in which hearts meet, ranks are gathered, and pains are contained. It is an Arab house which celebrates the anniversary of its founders and recognizes their acts with gratitude and appreciation.

Mr. President, as we recall now all the well-intentioned initiatives to gather Arab ranks, we particularly hail your pan-Arab initiative to convene the Alexandria summit in December with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. This summit came when we were in dire need of consolidating Arab principles, promoting joint Arab action, and supporting its institutions. The summit's reaffirmation of the pan-Arab role of the Arab League is an expression of the faith of the summit leaders that the League is the mother organization which plays its role as a lofty organization that gathers the Arab homeland and calls for mobilizing its resources within a framework capable of serving the Arab interests and dealing with, and not confronting, the world's developments and the changes around us.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen. The Arab League is the oldest international and regional organization. It is different from other organizations in that it is a gathering of states extending from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arabian] Gulf in a cohesive unit with a deep-rooted cultural and historical background. It has a pan-Arab message before it is a regional organization of the Arab states. For this reason, it has stood fast against all differences that have erupted among some of its states. Differences eventually disappear but a pan-Arab message remains as long as the Arabs have hope in their League. Destiny has decided that the quick and acute transformations in our region have coincided with the radical transformations in international political and economic relations. Therefore, it is my duty to commend the alert action and the appreciated efforts which you are undertaking on the Arab and international levels, the latest of which is your recent visits to the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and the Sultanate of Oman in support of a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the Middle East. On this occasion, I refer to your initiative for declaring the Middle East a zone free of all the weapons of mass destruction to implement the meanings of international peace and security, to spare the region from being destroyed by uncontrolled whims, and to safeguard peace whose structure is still being built slowly and with difficulty and which requires constant effort and care.

The Arab League council has supported this initiative, adopted it, and made it a permanent item on its agenda. This is because when we seek peace and development, it is because our Arab nation considers peace a strategic option which it has accepted and confirmed through the Arab League Resolution No. 5,092 of September 1991. Peace constitutes a challenge which we must translate into benefit, security, and prosperity.

By this option we shield ourselves with one of the characteristics of our Arab nation throughout its history of civilization; namely, to rise in the face of challenges and assemble its most powerful capabilities for reflection and management. The nearest and best example of this ability for reflection and management was when the will of our Arab states converged in the strongest and greatest feat of common Arab action in terms of coordination and effective solidarity in October 1973. At that time, Arab cohesion and pan-Arab solidarity was the source of astonishment and admiration of the entire world.

Your Excellency the President, ladies and gentlemen: Inter-Arab reconciliation has become an urgent and pressing necessity to face the challenges of the nation. It has become certain that there is no salvation for us from the current and potential crises impeding the progress of the nation and standing in the way of building its future except by restoring the solidarity within a clear-cut and firmly established pan-Arab reconciliation. Hence came Your Excellency's call in your historic speech before the People's Assembly and Consultative Council on 21 November 1994 for a true Arab reconciliation based on clearing the Arab air. There is no doubt that your call and that of His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to attain this reconciliation reflects the sense of Arab realism that feels the urgent need for this reconciliation. If repeating and insisting on this reconciliation relieves the conscience, the duty we all have before God and the nation makes it incumbent upon us to translate this call into true pan-Arab reconciliation, thus taking it out of the sphere of hopes and aspirations into the sphere of action and practice.

The current Arab situation requires dialogue and frankness, commitment to the principles and goals of the UN and Arab League Charters, and an agreement to serve the nation's fateful causes and elevate its dreams and aspirations above the grief and wounds, despite their depth and the suffering they continue to cause. This is the true introduction to any effort that seeks to serve the nation, safeguard its security and the safety of its generations, and qualify it to live in dignity and pride at a time when we are approaching the 21st century and living in a world marked by the emergence of major economic blocs and groupings. This makes the building of an active and effective Arab community a strategic necessity for our security, our countries, and our peoples.

Your Excellency the President: I am certain that despite the clouds looming in the Arab sky, the leaders of our nation, in view of the prudence, dedication, and ability to uphold the supreme Arab interests, will be capable, God willing, of creating an atmosphere of trust once again and restoring the Arab solidarity to be as strong as it used to be. The coming few years will be fateful years as they will be a time of decisiveness with respect to the future of the Arab nation. With its Arab identity and cohesiveness, the Arab nation is capable of dealing with the requirements of the age, which has no place for anyone but the strong. The current Arab era is one of reflection while we are at a crossroads.

Your Excellency the President, ladies and gentlemen: The beginning of a new era for the Arab League, its missions, and functions places new burdens on us to accelerate steps toward meeting our people's aspirations for security, stability, and prosperity and creating all the components of a future Arab community which we hope will be rife with prosperity. While appreciating the greatness of this responsibility, we have faith in the nation's ability to achieve renaissance, consolidate its Arab identity, and continue to undertake its role in contributing to building the civilization of the 21st century.

Your Excellency the President: Allow me before concluding my address to be honored, in the name of the Arab League, to present you with its shield, in appreciation and recognition of your honorable efforts. I pray God Almighty to lead us toward upholding the causes of our nation, guided by the verse that decorates the dome of this Arab institution: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse] May peace and God's mercy be with you. [applause]

Egyptian President Mubarak Gives Speech

NC2203113795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0921 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak marking the Arab League's 50th anniversary at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful; Mr. Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'yami, chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council and United Arab Emirates foreign minister; Mr. Secretary General of the Arab League; brother heads of the delegations; ladies and gentlemen:

In the life of nations and peoples, there are crucial days that leave immortal marks in the history books and produce effects which time cannot wipe out because they signal important turning points in the nation's march toward glory and progress. Today, as our Arab League stands at a crossroads, it must thoroughly identify the challenges facing it and the problems standing in its way and work out an integrated vision of the approach it can follow to confront these challenges and problems. This can be done by choosing among the alternatives available and selecting the closest to reaching the aspired goal.

However, the means toward reaching this goal must rely on a rational scientific approach that depends on objectivity in estimation and planning, honesty with oneself and others, and on enabling people with experience to express their various ideas and notions without taking away anyone's right to offer an opinion that may differ from the prevailing one, or that may go beyond what is common. This is because attaining the optimum status can only be achieved through the interaction of free opinions and various ideas.

These days we are experiencing one of those important turning points, not only because we are celebrating together the 50th anniversary of the signing of the charter for common Arab action and the establishment of the Arab League, but also because our celebration of this occasion, which we should not view from a purely ceremonial or formal perspective, coincides with the emergence of new challenges that are much different from those faced by the nation in the past half century.

Fifty years have passed, during which the League witnessed deep changes in the life of the Arab nation. These are fifty years that were rife with fundamental shifts at the world and regional levels and were the focus of the entire world's attention, both because they were deep-rooted, far-reaching, and radical shifts and because they occurred with a tempo the likes of which the Arab and world citizens have not seen before. There is no doubt that this new reality makes it incumbent upon us to take a deep and probing look at our past and present and even our future. The purpose of this is to identify accomplishments and obstacles and to explore positive and negative aspects in a bid to formulate a clear-cut scientific vision about what we look forward to achieving in the future and identify the ways that we can follow in this new era to preserve our basic interests and safeguard our rights and sanctities and even our very survival and pan-Arab and cultural identity.

In my view, the first thing that we must take into consideration and understand is that the whole world is taking quick steps toward closer and intertwined ties among states in the different continents. At present, no country or a group of countries can live in isolation from other countries or can move outside the international context or ignore the developments and events that occur beyond its borders. No country can do that simply because it cannot lag behind or fail to deal with the necessities of the age; otherwise, it would become a marginal entity have no effect or contribution to forming the new picture of the future world.

I also believe that our Arab nation is quite qualified to participate effectively in achieving this historic transformation in view of its history, heritage, legacy, and assets in culture and science, cherishing reason, wisdom, objectivity, and logic. This nation was and still is, God willing, "Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind." [Koranic verse] The best nation on earth, encountered in the distant and near past successive experiences and numerous seditions and ordeals, achieved many victories, and suffered numerous setbacks. This legacy is bound to help this nation form a realistic and mature view of the present and future, especially since the ongoing world progress in the fields of science and technology will provide modern man greater opportunity to foresee the possibilities of the future and will be more capable of working out a sound life course.

Brothers and sisters: If we look at our march since the establishment of the Arab League in 1945, we will find that in the past half century we have borne in mind the achievement of lofty goals on which all the Arabs agreed, because they are constant and are linked to our strategic interests and basic rights. It was only natural that we had, along with these strategic goals, other phased goals that may interact and adjust to changing circumstances and to new developments because history is continual motion. Every phase must have its goals and methods that are consistent with its nature and challenges.

During the 1940's and 1950's, our goal was to deepen our distinguished identity and common aim and to seek to liberate the Arab land and will and to assert their independence and liquidate all forms of foreign control of Arab resources. Our way of achieving this goal was to call for establishing Arab coordination and broadening it continuously to extend to the various political, economic, and cultural aspects and to contribute to crystallizing a close and harmonious Arab course of action to cope with problems and challenges and find solutions which all Arab countries share according to each individual country's means and resources.

In the 1960's, our goal was to call for unifying the Arab ranks and achieving a greater measure of social justice in order to build a strong and cohesive Arab society capable of fulfilling our peoples' aspirations and maintaining steadfastness in the face of the growing internal and external pressures that faced our nation at the height of the severe conflict between the powers that triumphed in World War II. This conflict generated hostile bipolar powers which placed difficult and delicate options before our peoples and required them to be careful in making their way amid conflicting trends and a tense atmosphere.

During the 1970's and 1980's, our goals focused on the liberation of the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967 and asserting our control over our natural resources and economic potential and formulating a common Arab view of a comprehensive peace which we have sought to achieve and entrench in the Middle East. This common view was based on a formula that would enable all peoples of the region to live in peace and harmony in an order based on respect for rights and compliance with duties on an equal and even-handed footing. We sought an order that would ensure the stability to which the peoples of the region aspire after continuing tense conflict and fighting that exhausted a huge amount of their strength and resources.

In the past five years, the pan-Arab effort has aimed at broadening the scope of peace and at the complete liberation of the occupied Arab land and at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to establish their national authority on their land and to determine their future. At the same time, we have sought to reach a clear concept and an integrated structure of security in the region along with working out a common Arab concept for regional cooperation after the peace process has been completed.

While seeking to achieve these goals, we bear in mind the need to consider the available options to deal with the giant economic blocs that now constitute an important phenomenon that enormously affects the whole world, particularly as they have reached a new international agreement to organize world trade.

As a matter of fact, the Arab League has never been far from these Arab concerns or failed to play its role in seeking to achieve the pan-Arab goals within the available means in accordance with the Arab League Charter, which included a specific definition of the purpose for establishing it: Strengthening ties among the member states and coordinating their political plans to achieve cooperation among them; safeguarding the Arab countries' independence and sovereignty; discussing in general the Arab countries' affairs and interests; seeking to establish close cooperation among the Arab countries in line with the laws and state of affairs of each country in the economic, social, health, and transportation areas. In addition, the Arab League held numerous conferences on the levels of heads of state and foreign ministers, and other meetings on the level of ministers and experts on the affairs outlined in the Charter.

It is fair, quite fair to acknowledge that the League has maintained Arab unity as much as it could amid very complex circumstances and that it remained the symbol of unified joint Arab action, embodying the pan-Arab concept in its simplest sense. This is in addition to its international role as an organization that has been speaking on behalf of the Arabs, expressing their hopes and aspirations, and representing their conscience before the world for half a century.

Naturally this does not prompt us to say that the League has realized every hope pinned on it in every phase of joint Arab action and in dealing with the increasing responsibilities facing the Arab nation in the past 50 years.

We must be frank with ourselves, that what has been achieved in the spheres I have mentioned remains far short of our nations' ambitions. Perhaps we might add that these achievements were fewer than they might have been under the available resources. But this does not mean we should deny the League's role in this era, which has been rife with successive events and developments, or play down its achievements.

I do not need to speak about Egypt's role in establishing the League and enhancing its role over the years in the various stages. There is no one who does not know that Egypt adopted the project of establishing the League from the start and participated with six fraternal Arab countries in signing the Charter in 1945. Egypt then worked to expand the League's scope and activity and back its action under every circumstance. It remains for me to assert to you that Egypt's commitment to supporting the Arab League, enhancing its role, and boosting its effectiveness is firm and unflinching.

Perhaps you will agree with me that today we should focus on the future and derive lessons from the achievements and failures of the past so that we might better the performance in the years to come, when we bid farewell to a century that has been full of enormous changes and begin a new era that might differ from the old in many aspects.

All this places burdens on us, burdens we have not experienced before, and requires an objective vision able to press ahead with a lively spirit, firm resolve, and sure faith that the Arab nation cannot drop behind or abandon its role in a stage during which its fate and that of mankind may be decided for a long time to come.

If I may suggest to you some preliminary ideas that I think are important for crystallizing this vision of the Arab League's role, I will present you with these broad lines with a view to enriching the ongoing debate inside and outside the League, since this issue is of interest to the vast majority of the Arab masses and arouses the enthusiasm of generations of our glorious nation. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon us to provide them with our views in light of the experiments we have gone through and the difficulties we have encountered. From this premise, let me suggest to you the following points:

First. We must work with all our energy to enhance the status of the Arab League and activate its role in the coming stage, not only as a symbol of our resolve to preserve this honorable institution as the collegiate Arab home, but also out of our faith that we are all in need of an active and dynamic League role in every political and nonpolitical domain to preserve the supreme interests of our single nation. In this regard, we must state that the Arab League cannot become more effective unless it is so willed by the member states and unless such an active role enjoys a general consensus. This is because the League does not act in a vacuum, but through close and organic links with all its member states in the Arab East and West.

Second. We must be realistic in determining our goals and serious in pursuing these goals. Being realistic does not mean restricting our hopes to narrow horizons that have no room for dreams of a more prosperous and bright future. What is meant is for our vision to be based on objective facts that have no place for excessive fantasies or submission to illusion, that do not substitute slogans for goals, and that do not waste what is possible and available in pursuit of the impossible.

Third. It must be established in people's minds that the goal of Arab unity will remain the supreme goal that is undisputed, a goal not to be relinquished. It emanates from past generations and will continue to live in the hearts of the generations to come from the sons of this nation. But faith in this noble goal and determination to achieve it require us to realize that the best way to turn it from a hope into a reality is to move with gradual and ascending steps that ultimately lead to the achievement of supreme pan-Arab goals. We must not restrict our vision in advance with a single rigid formula that may not necessarily conform to reality. A better way would be to lay before us, as we proceed in that direction, those successful examples of the rational, integrational, and practical experiment followed by other countries ahead of us, taking steps that may have been limited at the beginning but were marked by seriousness and objectivity.

Fourth. In the political sphere we should recognize and specify our pan-Arab objectives in the post-peace era on the understanding that all of us have agreed to commit ourselves to a just and comprehensive peace as a lofty strategic objective and a genuine aim. This might require, among other things, rearranging pan-Arab objectives.

In this context, no objective is as important or vital as the defense of pan-Arab security in its comprehensive sense. Security is the primary guarantee of survival and constitutes the collection of factors that guarantee the defense of one nation or several nations and their vital interests against aggression. Without this vital guarantee, the nation's very survival is at stake. The possibilities of its disintegration and the undermining of its basic components would then become apparent and it would become meaningless to speak seriously of any future role for it.

In the context of defending pan-Arab security, I presented an initiative in Baghdad in April 1990 to free the entire Middle East of weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, and biological.

Doubtless, any party's possession of such weapons is sufficient to threaten stability and security in the entire region, spread a climate of tension, and provoke a frenzied, destructive competition that might spell out the worst consequences for everyone. Such situations cannot be accepted by those who are truly and sincerely committed to a comprehensive and lasting peace.

Fifth. In the economic sphere, which will probably be the primary concern of most countries, developed and developing alike, we will discover that the supreme pan-Arab interest requires a greater measure of economic rapprochement and coordination among the Arab countries. There are many reasons for this and by no means are they limited to enabling all the Arab countries to raise their citizens' standards of living and insuring their welfare. They also include the necessary establishment of a broad Arab economic bloc that will enable us to deal effectively with the call to engage in more comprehensive regional cooperation. This is the ideal method that will give us greater ability to negotiate with the major economic blocs that now cover almost the entire world and that possess huge capabilities and authority, providing their member states with considerable privileges in confronting other countries.

Sixth. A no less important objective is to do our utmost to achieve a comprehensive cultural renaissance in every corner of the Arab homeland. The focus of this renaissance should be the protection of our pan-Arab culture, enabling the Arab mind to play a central role in determining the shape of the present and future world, and restoring the original Arab values that have their source in our enlightened heritage and the teachings of our lofty religions. Foremost among these noble values, which were once the basis of our nation's ascendancy and glory are moderation, toleration, coexistence, the renunciation of extremism, fanaticism, and xenophobia, shunning values that are foreign to our civilized heritage, respect for knowledge, the nurturing of free thought, and opening every door to the fruits of intellect and enlightenment.

These were and must remain the characteristics of the rational Arab mentality that has offered civilization and mankind a legacy of knowledge that have provided sustenance for the ages of progress and advance in the world. We must go back to the essence of our genuine cultural heritage, which founded an Arab community based on science, knowledge, and openness to other cultures and civilizations. We must recall that our Arab nation, which carried the banner of Arab and Islamic civilization with its humanitarian dimensions and noble values, has remained the pan-Arab shield protecting the genuine core of our character, traits, and identity and created a civilization that provided an innovative and open-minded framework in which ideas are melted and dogmas and philosophies coexist. The Arab-Islamic civilization has been keen on absorbing the ideology of the nations and civilizations preceding it. It added to it, enriched its heritage, then conveyed it in its developed form to other peoples in later historical eras, thus making great contributions toward paving the way for the ages of scientific renaissance in the modern and contemporary world. The names of the outstanding Arab scientists in mathematics, physics, and the humanities serve as landmarks in the history of human civilization.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, it is high time for our nation to take the lead once again and assume the responsibility of carrying the banners of science and the torches of knowledge, thus contributing once again toward creativity and development in the 21st century's civilization on the basis of science, reason, and freedom of thought. This necessitates the liberalization and revival of contemporary Arab thinking. It also requires that we embark on modernizing education in all the Arab states and acquire modern technology, which inevitably will be the most important characteristic of the 21st century's society.

If these requirements mean anything, they mean first and foremost the need to crystallize a common pan-Arab grand plan to introduce the technology we choose and find to be suitable for our socioeconomic conditions in all the Arab states. It is important not to confine ourselves to importing this technology from abroad. It would be more worthwhile and beneficial for us to enhance our own capabilities to develop it and produce modern and advanced versions from it.

Seventh. The current trend to achieve Arab reconciliation is both commendable and required and perhaps the best way to transform it from a mere slogan to an actual fact is to devise a formula that will change it from an interim demand during transitional circumstances to a desired objective whenever the Arab homeland passes through a crisis. In the context of frankness within the same family, we must acknowledge that reconciliation cannot be achieved through an emotional act based only on Arab magnanimity and the desire to forget the past turn over a new leaf. It can be attained by thinking of laying down a specific mechanism for handling such situations in all cases and situations, so that objective criteria may exist for dealing with crises. To be more frank and specific, the element that continues to obstruct Arab reconciliation is the complications resulting from the events that took place in those sad days of August 1990, which constituted a pan-Arab disaster by any standard. We do not know how many years and how much effort it will take for those events to fade from the memories of those who have gone through them and experienced their unfortunate consequences. However, it is also true that the disaster could be more devastating and serious if the nation is left to disintegrate and if its future is placed in danger because of the lack of a clear-cut way out of this pan-Arab tragedy. In my view, a serious attempt that could meet with success against the dangers of falling into this predicament would be to lay down objective and firm criteria to deal with such occasions in all cases and at all times. This would set aside the subjective and transitory considerations that could be accused of being impartial or that could collide with a reality it cannot overcome.

Eighth. It would be useful to adopt a new Arab charter of honor that prevents the emergence of grinding and destructive differences and that ensures containing any conflicts within limits that do not allow things to erupt in ways we have witnessed before. According to this charter, all members of the Arab family, particularly those who are not directly involved in the conflict, would pledge to adopt the stance that would resolve and tackle the conflict and prevent it from becoming aggravated, even if this requires the use of new mechanisms and rules. There is no harm in letting this charter strengthen and deepen the principles already stipulated in the Arab League Charter. Among these principles are those that call on all the member states to respect each other's existing regimes and to pledge not to take any action that aims to change these regimes.

Mr. Chairman of the current Arab League Council session, ladies and gentlemen, today we are at a historic turning point, one that has never been so clear, a turning point with greater responsibilities and multiplying dangers, a turning point that might impose on us the tough option of whether to be or not to be. I see no alternative but to go through this turning point with hope, self-confidence, and belief in God, who has honored this nation's countries and peoples and chosen them for his revelations, as the birthplace of the messengers and prophets, and as the cradle of civilizations and cultures.

The more serious the challenges the more our hearts are filled with hope and the more our hands long for action that serves the interest of individuals, peoples, countries, and nation. We have a strong belief in the fairness of our causes and in our good intentions. We are armed with a grand civilized and humanitarian view that is free from bigotry and the whims of isolation. We have a firm will, which succeeded in making miracles in the darkest hours when the Arab nation's vanguards achieved the great crossing in those blessed days of 1973.

We have no option but to be resolute and make our way in a world that is the scene of various conflicts and new aspects of heated and sharp competition. Our assets in this are the achievements recorded in the pages of glorious history, in circumstances that were possibly different, but certainly not rosy or easy.

We pledge that we will act as one man amid these stormy winds and that we will all be like a solid structure. Our course is to seek unity of rank and ensure that we have the right objective, goal, and good intentions. Our eyes are focusing on both the near and distant future. There will be no retreat or getting lost in the mazes of the present and its obstacles. Come, brothers and sisters, so that we can build together our glorious Arab nation, build it with wisdom and enlightenment, build it with firm determination and strong hands, build it with sacrifice and open hands, build it with democracy and the rule of law, build it with hope and action, and build it with a firm belief in the unity of our objectives and fate. God will certainly aid those who aid his cause. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Ministers Hold Closed Session

NC2203140695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—The Arab Foreign Ministers Council held a closed session today after President Husni Mubarak delivered his historic and important speech. The session was chaired by Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the United Arab Emirates minister of foreign affairs, since his country is the Council's current chairman.

Only the foreign ministers, the permanent representatives, and the heads of delegations attended the session.

The agenda of the Council's current round of meetings is expected to be approved during the session. This agenda contains several items, most importantly, discussion of the basic structure for the Arab Court of Justice, as well as the Arab stance on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Lebanon's Buwayz on NPT Issue

NC2203141495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today is taking part in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, and in the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the Arab League's founding. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz today spoke to a media seminar at his residence in Cairo about Christopher's message to the Lebanese officials. He will present to the Arab League Council the issue of the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa', the naval blockade of the southern coast, and the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons. He stressed the need for an effective Arab role in implementing Resolution 425. Here is part of what Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] Of course, it is no secret that the U.S. stance revolves round the idea of making all parties—or the largest possible number of parties, including the Middle Eastern countries—sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] without conditions or restrictions. What does without conditions or restrictions mean? Without conditions means that these countries should not set any preconditions regarding Israel's joining the NPT; and without any restrictions means that this endorsement should have no time limitations—say five, ten, or fifteen years. Of course we believe this logic is impossibly distorted and that it is unacceptable to exempt the only country that owns nuclear weapons in the Middle East—Israel—from joining this treaty, while the countries that do not have nuclear weapons are being asked beforehand to join, sign, and make pledges that they will never own nuclear weapons.

We believe that, just as this agreement applies to the others, it also applies to Israel, because it is the only one with such weapons. Conditions are always right for prevention. In other words, some Arab countries have proposed limiting the endorsement period of the NPT until Israel joins it. If Israel joins, naturally the others will join; otherwise, these countries will be considered to have no obligations under the NPT after, say, two, three, or five years.

The United States is demanding that adherence to the NPT should not be conditional on anything. It is demanding a final and unrestricted adherence to the treaty.

[Correspondent] This was in the message.

[Buwayz] Of course, not all of this was in the message. But this is the U.S. stance; and this is what the message expressed in one way or another. We oppose such stances. In other words, as a matter of principle, we support limiting nuclear weapons and freeing the Middle East of all these weapons of mass destruction. We believe that Israel must first join the NPT, because it is the one with these weapons in the first place. We also believe that the conditions currently being posed indicate the inability of the international group to convince Israel of the logic of the issue.

[Correspondent] [Indistinct question]

[Buwayz] Unfortunately, a number of Arab countries have interests in this issue, some of which are [word indistinct], technological, political, or others. Unfortunately too, this stance could turn out not to be an absolute or group stance by all Arab countries. However, we hope that most Arab countries will adopt this stance. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syria's al-Shar' on Israel, NPT

NC2203133895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', head of his country's delegation to the Arab Foreign Ministers Council meetings, which are convening at the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat, has stated that the Council will discuss several Arab issues, most importantly the Middle East peace process on its every track.

The Council will also discuss several issues proposed on its agenda and will participate in the celebrations of the Arab League's 50th anniversary. Al-Shar' described the Arab League as the house of the Arabs, confirming that it must be preserved, particularly in view of proposals the objective of which concerns the future of the League and its member countries.

Al-Shar' said the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers will continue their discussions in meetings to be held in Bahrain in July.

Al-Shar' expressed his hopes that there will be a united Arab stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, because that is in everyone's favor, and in favor of security and stability in the region.

Al-Shar' affirmed that there is not one Arab country that has voted in favor of extending the treaty so far.

As for an international majority that favors signing and extending the Treaty, al-Shar' said this has nothing to do with the majority, but with the national security of the Arab countries. It also has something to do with establishing security and stability in the region. He clarified that this means that no one should be exempted from the treaty.

Al-Shar' concluded his statements saying that Israel must join the treaty if it wants the region to be free of weapons of mass destruction.

Al-Shar': UNSC Could Make NPT Binding

JN2203210095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Report by Salim Badawi in Cairo from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Immediately after the inaugural ceremony of the Arab League's 50th anniversary, the Arab foreign ministers began discussion of the agenda items of the Arab League Council ordinary session. Discussions focused on a common Arab concept on the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], based on the premise of coordinating the Arab stand on the nuclear issue and on the draft agreement to make the Middle East region free of all mass destruction weapons. [passage omitted]

On the Israeli nuclear program remaining outside the world system of banning nuclear proliferation and Israel's refusal to join the NPT and submit its nuclear facilities to the safeguards control system, the Arab draft project says that this poses a threat to regional security and harms the credibility of the NPT.

That's why it is important to come out with a united Arab concept on this issue, the Syrian foreign minister said after the first working session. He said he hopes all Arab countries will abide by the decision the Arab League Council will make in this respect.

[Begin Faruq al-Shar' recording] As I have sensed, there is a genuine Arab concern about Israel's possessing nuclear weapons. Thus, there is an Arab insistence that Israel joins the NPT when it is discussed in New York in confirmation of the universality and comprehensiveness of this treaty.

We also believe that the UN Security Council, if it wants to establish the universality of the treaty, can adopt a resolution on the obligatory nature of joining this treaty without any exception and without resorting to double standards [end recording] [passage omitted]

Egypt's Musa on Political Committee

NC2203171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the Arab League's political committee, which concluded its meetings today, discussed the issue of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the coordination of Arab positions on it.

He said that the committee discussed three issues: the Arab League, its role and strengthening it; the Arab court of justice; and the Israeli nuclear program, which the committee will continue to discuss tomorrow morning.

Musa added that the Arab foreign ministers meeting today was a proper and historic opportunity for giving impetus to joint Arab action. He noted that there is an agreement to establish an Arab court of justice and to submit its proposed bylaws to the member states so as to voice their views and proposals, adding that these responses will be discussed at the 104th session.

On the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Egyptian foreign minister stressed that there is complete agreement between the Arab countries on this issue, explaining that the draft of the final resolution on the treaty is being formulated now.

League Expected To Back Libya

NC2303064595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY [MENA] has learned that the Arab League Ministerial Council's resolution to be issued tomorrow will reiterate the Council's solidarity with and support for the Libyan Jamahiriyah's efforts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis within the context of respect for Libyan national sovereignty and the principles of international law.

The resolution will also stress the need to hold a just trial of the suspects by Scottish judges in accordance with Scots Law. The trial should be held at the Hague's International Court of Justice. The resolution will urge the UN Security Council to conduct neutral investigations to verify the truth behind the Lockerbie incident, because previous investigations were incomplete and aroused suspicions.

MENA also learned that the Arab League's resolution on Lockerbie will urge the UN Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya as stipulated in its Resolutions 748 and 883 of 1993. The resolution will also urge the Arab League secretary general to coordinate efforts with the OAU secretary general based on the resolutions adopted by the African foreign ministers' 61st session, which called for forming a ministerial committee. The committee is entrusted with contacting the sides involved in the crisis to coordinate efforts, take initiatives, and start dialogues to work out a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In its resolution, the Arab League's Ministerial Council will call on the seven-member Arab committee charged with following up the crisis to contact the parties concerned, with the aim of urging the UN Security Council to study the Arab League's proposals again and accept them as a basis for solving the crisis. The Ministerial Council will authorize the Arab League secretary general to follow up on implementing these steps.

Buwayz on League Resolution

NC2303071295 Paris AFP in English 2257 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Report by Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, March 22 (AFP)—Arab countries will be free to vote independently on renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at a United Nations conference despite efforts to form a united front on the issue, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Wednesday [22 March].

A resolution to be adopted by the Arab League here Thursday "will not decide on a joint position on extending the NPT indefinitely," Buwayz told AFP, adding that each Arab country would choose how it would vote.

A draft Arab League resolution on the NPT did not specify a common position.

Article five of the resolution said: "the fait accompli forcing countries in the Middle East, apart from Israel, to respect the system of total guarantees is an unacceptable fault in the application of the NPT.

"The Arab countries will define their position on extension of the NPT in light of that."

The United States is seeking an unlimited and unconditional extension of the pact at the UN conference due to open in New York on April 17.

Earlier a senior Arab League official said a call for a joint approach with non-aligned countries—who have urged only limited renewal—would be included in the NPT resolution.

Israel, which reportedly possesses up to 200 nuclear warheads, refuses to join the treaty without first completing peace accords with all Arab states, including Iraq, Iran and Libya.

All member nations in the Arab League have signed the NPT, except Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti and the Comoros Islands.

Buwayz said the Arab League resolution "will stress that Israel's refusal to sign the NPT deprives the treaty of all credibility."

The Arab countries would call on the Security Council to ensure that the NPT was "universally applied," he added. [passage omitted]

Buwayz said Lebanon would vote against extending the NPT as long as Israel refused to join up.

An Arab official who attended the League meetings said the draft resolution was the fruit of a compromise between the moderate stand adopted by the Gulf and Maghreb countries and the more radical positions of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq.

Also on the agenda for the meeting of the Arab League, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, are:

—the creation of an Arab High Court to settle inter-Arab disputes and avoid a repetition of events such as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

—Israeli settlement in the Palestinian territories, occupation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

—Iranian "occupation" of three Gulf islands.

—international sanctions against Libya.

But divisive issues such as the international embargo on Iraq were swept under the carpet. [passage omitted]

Final Resolution Gives 'Freedom To Vote'

NC2303102095 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 23 (AFP)—Arab countries failed on Thursday [23 March] to draw up a common stand linking their extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to Israel joining the treaty.

Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Arab countries would have "the freedom to vote" as they wish when the NPT comes up for renewal at the United Nations in April.

In a final resolution at the end of a two-day meeting of the 22- member Arab League here on Thursday, "there are no conditions" linking extension to Israel's refusal to join the treaty, he added.

"The Arab position is flexible," said al-Kabariti, adding that it was a compromise between demands to place conditions on renewal and others to simply limit the period of extension.

A two-day meeting of Arab foreign ministers was dominated by the nuclear issue and demands to pressure Israel into opening its secret nuclear facilities to international inspection.

League Council Ends Meeting

NC2303122895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League Council concluded its meetings today. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a joint news conference with the Emirian foreign minister in which he commented on the most important issues discussed by the Arab foreign ministers.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that the resolutions were handled in a new and different spirit, reflecting the Arab countries' desire to boost collective Arab action.

He declared that the Arab League Council has decided to consider President Husni Mubarak's speech a document of the Arab League. He reported that a committee drawing its members from the Arab countries has been formed to study the speech and regard it as a method of action for the Arab League in the coming stage.

The secretary general referred to President Mubarak's statement of eight principles pertaining to promoting collective Arab action, including support for the Arab League and a call to the Arabs to respond to these principles.

He said the Arab League has adopted a unified Arab stance on the issue of weapons of mass destruction and the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

He declared that the Council stated in its resolution on this issue that the imposition of a fait accompli, illustrated by committing the region's countries, Israel excepted, to nuclear nonproliferation, constitutes a serious imbalance that threatens the region's security and stability, and thus cannot be accepted.

The secretary general added that the Arab League Council adjourned a decision on forming an Arab court of justice until its next meeting, and decided to send a draft statute of this court to the Arab countries so that they can comment on it and then submit it in its final form to the Arab League.

The secretary general stated that the Arab League Council decided to consider that the session could be reconvened any time the Council wishes, to follow up on developments. The secretary general said the Arab League Council adopted a resolution to back Libya in light of new evidence that casts doubt on the charges leveled against the suspects.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Meet With U.S. Officials in Cairo

JN2303090995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Cairo a short while ago. President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said in a statement prior to the president's departure, that President 'Arafat will meet in Cairo with a U.S. political and economic delegation following the U.S. delegation's *meeting* with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Abu-Rudaynah said: President 'Arafat will head for Jericho tomorrow morning to meet with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. He added that President 'Arafat and Gore will discuss, during their meeting, the impasse in the peace process, the negative effects of Israel's military siege, and the economic situation. Abu-Rudaynah noted that President 'Arafat and Vice President Gore will also discuss the need for exerting U.S. pressure on Israel to implement the Declaration of Principles, as well as giving momentum to the peace process and saving this process from the collapse to which it is being exposed.

Abu-Rudaynah said that the U.S. efforts are continuing, particularly following the visit to the region by Christopher. He said that President 'Arafat will ask the U.S. side to practice an effective and active role to salvage the peace process.

In Jericho, President 'Arafat will also meet with mayors, heads of trade unions, chairmen of the chambers of commerce, and national figures in the West Bank. The National Authority Council of Ministers will hold its weekly meeting in Jericho on Saturday [25 March] under President 'Arafat.

Gore Visit Viewed; U.S. Urged To Reassess Positions

TA2303142295 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 22 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "A Wrong Equation That Should Be Corrected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to the National Authority [NA] and his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat fall within the framework of U.S. efforts to advance the peace process, especially the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles.

For these efforts to gain credibility, the United States must also reassess some of its positions that are compatible with Israeli stances, particularly the security and economic aspects.

The United States tells us: If you solve the security problem, we will help solve the economic problem. This issue, which the Americans are raising and which appears to be a two-part problem, is a wrong equation that should be corrected. That calls for integrated action to solve the security issue. Since the talk is about peace, there cannot be Israeli security at the expense of Palestinian security, or vice versa. Therefore, ensuring real security for the Palestinians and the Israelis requires serious and effective action to enhance the foundations of a peace that must be felt both by the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Hence, the United States linking economic assistance to the NA and the Palestinian people with solving Israel's security problem will continue to be an incomplete solution that will not enhance both security and economy.

We firmly believe that Gore's visit will achieve its aspired for results if the United States discerns this wrong equation and acts to correct it before time runs out.

Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi on Policy, Credo

MM2003151895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 95 p 10

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad, by 'Ali Salih: place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salih] Will the method of suicide (martyrdom) operations be the method Jihad will pursue in its struggle against Israel, or is this method one that serves a specific political stage and consequently you will abandon it once that stage comes to an end?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our battle with the enemy inside Palestine is open to all possible Jihad methods and likelihoods, including martyrdom operations. It is not tied to one specific political stage but constitutes part of our continued struggle.

We realize that the enemy thought that by signing the Oslo and other agreements he had closed the Palestine file and was about to liquidate it, a fact which demands from us a special effort to foil the plot. Hence the importance of the martyrdom operations at this stage.

[Salih] The Palestinian Authority's objection to you is that your primary and principal aim from your operations was, in the first place, to destabilize it and bring about its collapse with a view to frustrating the Gaza and Jericho Accord and not to fight Israel. What do you have to stay about this?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We do not conceal the fact that we are opposed to the Gaza and Jericho Accord and that it is necessary to bring it down because it falls within a course that is opposed to our people's Jihad and fight and is at the expense of their interests and rights.

The aforementioned accord has three basic aims. The first is to stop the Intifadah and secure relief from the Gaza burden and hell without actually abandoning Gaza. The second is to protect and guard Israeli security with Palestinian participation in addition to pursuing the Mujahidin. The third is to penetrate and dominate the Arab region and open new fields for normalization. It is for this that we reject this accord and consider that the battle with the enemy continues, not because we want to embarrass or provoke the Authority.

[Salih] Is there any possibility for dealings between you and the Authority and what would be the basis of such dealings, in your opinion?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There is no way for us to have a political dialogue with the Authority as long as it sponsors a totally inimical political plan such as it upholds today. But in our efforts and endeavor to avoid collision and civil war, we would not rule out the possibility of our tackling some field issues with the Palestinian Authority to prevent any collision.

[Salih] Are there any ideological or political differences between you and Hamas that would prevent the unification of your ranks together, particularly as both your organizations are operating in one trench and pursue the same method in fighting Israel?

[Al-Shaqaqi] At no time whatsoever did we have any political or ideological differences with the brothers in Hamas. Furthermore, the political differences that existed prior to the establishment of Hamas have begun to evaporate since the start of the Intifadah and Hamas' assumption of its central role in it.

There exists a great deal of political agreement and harmony between our two organizations and there are numerous strong reasons for the unification of our ranks or at least for attaining a maximum degree of coordination and joint operations. I believe if a deep and continued dialogue were to take place between the two sides, it would achieve these objectives. We in Islamic Jihad extend our hands to the brothers in the Hamas movement and are anxious to achieve cooperation, understanding, and coordination with them. I believe that this has become a more persistent necessity today than at any time past.

[Salih] What is the main forte of the Jihad and its organizational structure? Is your presence in the occupied territory the main base, or is it in Syria or Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Jihad's main forte lies in its ideas and the realization of these ideas, as well as in the sincerity of its men and their continued endeavor to realize these ideals. I believe, indeed I am confident, that the Jihad movement is one of the foremost movements that have not exhausted their purpose. It continues to muster enormous latent energy and is capable of bringing about important changes on the level of Palestine or the region whenever it has the opportunity to unleash part of this latent energy that lies in its organizational structure. For despite the enormous extent of the diaspora and the exceptional conditions the Jihad movement is living through, it has a congress that elects its general consultative council, which in turn elects its secretary general.

Jihad's general congress is the one that is vested with the power of approving its regulations and laws, its political line and its other activities. The movement's Consultative Council then carries out these regulations and policies with the help of the local consultative councils in the areas where the movement exists, which in turn maintain links with the General Consultative Council and the secretary general. There are also executive bodies in the various fields of operation—the political, military, mobilization, foreign relations, organizational, and financial fields.

However, our basic existence is in occupied Palestine. We had no existence in Lebanon until after I and some brothers were deported from Palestine in 1988. As to our presence in Syria, it is very limited and temporary and has no official character. It is much less than our presence in other places outside Palestine.

[Salih] According to some information, you have a number of training camps in Lebanon. Is this true?

[Al-Shaqaqi] This is not true. We had one military base only, which was near Nahr al-Barid camp in Lebanon. But the enemy bombed it several times and tried to land troops in it. We have learned the lesson and benefited from the experience of the Palestinian resistance. So we abandoned the base. The enemy is aware of this and has stopped bombing the area since then. We do not need fixed military centers because our military activities take place in their entirety in Palestine. Our war with the enemy is not a conventional one and consequently it needs unconventional methods. One of the mistakes of the Palestinian resistance was its attempt to turn itself into a conventional army in a war in which the enemy is the superior side.

[Salih] There are also indications that you have over 10 centers scattered around Lebanese and Syrian territory which help you to hide from the Israelis. Is this true?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We have no centers other than our own homes and those of our brothers. We have some limited social activities there. But we have nothing of the sort at all in Syria.

[Salih] In this context, what is the extent of your relations with the Lebanese Hizballah Party?

[Al-Shaqaqi] There is an understanding and political coordination.

[Salih] And military?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Sometimes.

[Salih] Is there any truth in what is being said that a number of elements from the Fatah-Revolution Council movement (the Abu Nidal group) are operating through your movement and that they have actually carried out a number of operations in Southern Lebanon?

[Al-Shaqaqi] I have never heard such a thing before. Anyway, we have full respect for all strugglers against the Israeli occupation. The Fatah-Revolutionary Council has been in Lebanon and the South long before we came into being, and it possesses enormous capabilities and carries out its activities by itself without mediation from anyone, as everybody knows.

[Salih] Where do you get your arms and funds? There are some people who say that Iran was your principal financier. Is this true?

[Al-Shaqaqi] We rely basically on popular support for our financing. As to the Iranian support, it consists in the main of the help given to the families of the martyrs and the prisoners as well as the families of the wounded Intifadah members. Other than that, the Iranian support is just political and moral.

[Salih] As we are talking about financing, how do you evaluate the effect on your movement of the decision by American President Bill Clinton to freeze the assets of Jihad in general and your personal funds in particular in the United States?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Undoubtedly this decision is disturbing because of what it indicates of the effect of the Jewish and Zionist lobby on the U.S. Administration, which has been waging an unholy crusade against Islam and the Islamic world and has been accusing us of terrorism when we have not fired one single bullet or threatened anyone outside the borders of our occupied homeland. We are fighting for freedom and an honorable life, just as George Washington fought. We have enough love in our hearts to turn this oppressive world into an oasis of peace and justice.

As to the question of the assets, we have no assets in their banks, and consequently the American decision is meaningless and has no financial bearing on us.

[Salih] When was Jihad established and how did the idea of its establishment evolve?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The young people who started Islamic Jihad in Palestine as a movement and as an organization inside Palestine in the early 1980's (1980-1981) were young people from the secondary and preparatory schools. They did so after having been greatly affected by the defeat in June 1967. I was then only 16 years old. I was one of the young people who felt extreme bitterness and sorrow following that major historic defeat. It shook me immensely because it threw us into a bottomless pit. The days and months that followed that defeat were difficult. During that time I and the others, with some of whom I later joined in forming the Islamic Jihad movement, lost all balance.

Let me reiterate here that the seeds of what the West wrongly calls the Islamic Fundamentalist phenomenon and what we call the Awakening and Return to God phenomenon were sown on that bitter day, 5 June 1967, about which not everything has been said, unless there is nothing more to say. We could not do anything then other than cling to God as a means to get out of the impasse and to restore our psychological balance and move forward toward wider and more entrenched and stronger horizons. This took place gradually. The idea of Islamic Jihad emerged later and matured during our studies in Egypt in the seventies.

In Egypt we met as a group of educated and religious Palestinian young people with rich cultural and political roots and experiences. We had discovered during our dialogues and social gatherings that most of us had read the works of Shakespeare, Dostoyevski, Chekhov, Sartre, Elliot, Najib Mahfouz, Badr Shakir al-Sayyab and Salah 'Bad al-Sabur as well as the works of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Hasan al- Banna, Baqir al-Sadr, and Sayyid Qutub in addition to different books of political science and human and historical knowledge. I recall that I personally had written certain notes of criticism about the work of Sartre when I was only 17 years old and an article about Lenin (leader of the Russian Bolshevik Revolution) on the centenary of his death when I was only 19 years old.

At the time I also read "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles in its English version over ten times, and each time wept bitterly and could not sleep before I finished reading the book. I also read "The Cotton Ginner Tragedy" by Salah 'Abd al-Sabur over 50 times and learned by heart the poem entitled "The Rain" by Al-Sayyab. Najib Mahfuz's trilogy left a lasting effect on my life. When Mahmud Darwish wrote his poem "Ahmad al-Za'tar" I learned it by heart and thought it then to be one of the best poems ever written in the Arabic language. Perhaps I exaggerate in this respect; indeed I did. But outside any personal or political classification poet Mahmud Darwish remains a rare and superlative poet right through to his last poem, which was entitled "I Left the Horse Alone."

At that time too, I read the works of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, and admired them greatly at the expense of the works of Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh, which I used to criticize, until I discovered some years later that he deserved greater interest from us, despite my differences with him in terms of political outlook, which continue to this day. I also read at the time the letters of Imam al-Banna, but I am more interested in them today than then. As to Sayyid Qutub, his influence on our generation was beyond dispute. I made great efforts to escape being in thrall to his wonderful classical eloquence and how he led his life until his death and martyrdom, so that I could show a more critical and objective view of his work without detracting from its ethical values. Nor I must not forget in this respect such books as "Arab Thought in the Renaissance Age" by Albert Hurani and "The Arab Intelligentsia and the West."

[Salih] What are the objectives which the Islamic Jihad movement aims to achieve?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine aims to liberate Palestine in its entirety and mobilize the Palestinian masses in a total struggle manner to equip them to carry out their duty of struggle for the sake of Palestine. It also aims to instigate and rally the masses of the Arab and Islamic nation and urge them to shoulder their historic role in the face of the Zionist enemy.

The Islamic Jihad movement also works for the unification of the Arab and Islamic efforts toward Palestine while at the same time preaching Islam and its creed, laws, culture and discipline and the revival of its cultural message to the nation and to mankind alike and work for its emergence and triumph.

These objectives fall within the framework of our realization of the growing link and dialogue between the confrontation of Zionism and imperialism and the revival of the nation, for it would not be possible for us to accomplish an Islamic revival plan without the question of the liberation of Palestine being the nucleus of such a plan and the arena of its basic battle.

[Salih] This means that you are not prepared to accept the establishment of a Palestine state in the West Bank and Gaza only. Is this so?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Palestine is a small country and consequently it cannot accommodate more than one state. This is something the Israelis understand and insist upon in their own particular way. This is too what we should understand and insist upon and struggle for through the Arabism and Islamism of Palestine. There can be no stability in the region without this.

Besides, the establishment of a truly independent Palestinian state with the existence of Israel is not possible. This is because the nature of Israel as a state and as a function does not permit such a thing. I have already said that we understand this attitude toward Palestine as being the nucleus for our revival plan. Hence the acceptance of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, besides being not possible, constitutes a dwarfing of the Palestinian question and conflicts with our revival plan.

[Salih] In other words, you will seek the destruction of Israel even with the establishment of a state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Is this true?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Israel is an imperialist entity which, by its very nature, is founded on an expansionist dynamic and a dream of domination. Israel is also an imperialist base and an ally and a partner of the West and helps to facilitate the West's penetration into the Arab and Islamic fold, to dominate it and loot its wealth. Since the West declared through Lord Balfour, the foreign secretary of its first great power (Britain) at the time, his imperialist decision to grant Palestine to the Jews and to the Zionist movement to establish a special entity for them, the region has been living in a state of instability and absence of security.

The Americans believe that they can achieve this today after the world has succumbed to them, as they believe. So they embarked on their endeavor, not realizing that they are only trying to pass the Arab Islamic camel through the eye of the Zionist needle. It is because of this that instability has been continuing. For it is impossible that peace can ever come on the basis they imagine.

As to the Jews, throughout their centuries of persecution in Europe, they were always welcomed in the Arab and Islamic homeland. Today we are not against the Israelis because they are Jews but because they constitute an imperialist entity that usurped our land and our rights.

The Jews could live more peacefully among us and throughout the whole world if they were to abandon their ambitions to muster an imperialist hegemony tool, as the Zionist entity is firstly and lastly an imperialist hegemony tool. Are the Jews in need of such a thing? Can they liberate themselves from their historic dilemma by entering into a historic ethical dilemma which is blacker and more dangerous? While the evolution of current societies has offered them a more secure, more peaceful, and more prosperous life, they chose to turn themselves into a destructive imperialist tool that enslaves the others and dominates them by the might of force and coercion. It is a trick which is nourished by the Western Zionist ambitions and so the only option open to us is resistance.

[Salih] Do not you think that by clinging to such an objective you would be swimming against the current? How will you work for the achievement of this objective when all the Arabs have failed, in the world of the military and under more favorable conditions, to realize even the minimum of their objectives?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Quite often one is forced to swim against the current to save oneself or the lives of others. All prophets have swum against the current, at least in the beginning. So did all the great and distinguished revolutionaries. It is difficult to swim against the current, but it is not always a shameful thing or wrong. In some cases, swimming against the current might be the most right thing.

We are aware that the material balances of power were not in our favor, and consequently it will not be possible for us to liberate Palestine tomorrow or the day after. But should this be a reason for us to capitulate, squander our rights, accept defeat and humiliation and even perhaps annihilation under the pretext of the weight of the state of affairs on the ground? On the contrary, this oppressive state of the balances of power constitutes a vital cause before man to struggle to change this state.

As far as we are concerned, to change this state of affairs is not impossible, if not imperative. For the nation possesses the means of power started with a motivating living ideology, through inventive geography and unified inspiring history, enormous human and material resources, to the duties of one common destiny, one common security, and one common interest.

Admittedly these individual points of strength are scattered, but they cannot be annihilated and destroyed. They are only awaiting something to coordinate them and then the balances of power will change. The enemy derives his strength from innate transient foreign elements which lack the ability to continue for ever. Striking at these elements at any place or spot could paralyze them in other places and spots.

Do you not notice how the United States, the West, and the Zionist entity and other regional states have spent billions and made every effort to create their brittle peace and sneak through their plans when along comes a struggler or two to destroy all this or part of it and turn it into ruins?

It is true that the material balance of power today is not in our favor. But this should not prevent us from striking a balance of terror with the enemy. Here lies the significance of the martyrdom operations, which proves that the unjust balances of power are not eternal and that their conditions were not the destiny decreed for our nation and people and that we possess the option of fighting as an alternative for the option of surrender.

Change is undoubtedly coming, for it is a divine law and way. So it is better that this change should find us steadfast in our positions than find us on our knees bearing the document of capitulation before the Zionist entity and NATO. Indeed, our steadfastness and firmness are the two essential conditions for bringing about the change.

For two thousand years the Jews have been nurturing the hope of meeting in Jerusalem without actually having any hope or power of achieving this. Even when they embarked on their modern Zionist plan toward the end of the last century and the beginning of the current century, their rate of success was nonexistent.

But we, who, according to some, are swimming against the current, nihilist, and ignorant of the nature of the age and the balances of power as the others imagine them to be, have begun to constitute a strategic threat to the Hebrew state, as Rabin himself had said following the Bet Lid operation. For the first time since the beginning of the struggle, the enemy found itself forced to admit that the popular resistance and the holy struggle operations constitute a threat to his existence.

This means that we know very well what we are doing and we will continue with it, whether against the current or with it, within the framework of the sublime interest of our people and our nation. As to the Arab failure in a bipolar world and their possible failure in the current unipolar world, it is a matter that is not dependent on the number of poles and the relationship between them, but on the nature of the prevalent forces which are geared to serving the interests of the West and the Zionist plan. When the our state of subservience ends and we assert our independent cultural identity, our success will only be a matter of time. Defeat has its conditions and so does victory. We must be fully aware of this objectively and subjectively under all circumstances.

[Salih] What are the movements that split from the Islamic Jihad movement and the reasons that led to these splits and whether they were ideological or political?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Believe me, no movement has split from the Islamic Jihad movement just as Islamic Jihad in Palestine did not split from any movement. Some of the groups which bear the name of Jihad were nothing but mere names which Yasir 'Arafat invented out of his own head and not from the body of Islamic Jihad and spent enormous money on after he lost all hope of containing our movement. Everybody today knows that he has failed to do so. This is because there is only one Jihad movement, which is the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine and which has a well-known political line, ideological line, and course within the Islamic movement and within the Palestinian national movement.

Those who previously talked of Islamic Jihad "movements" were the victims of a political and information trick that is known within the Palestinian arena.

[Salih] Ariel Sharon, one of the Likud Party leaders, has called for the deportation from Palestine of all those who have any connection whatsoever with the Al-Shaqaqi family as a reprisal to Jihad's suicide operations. What do you say about this and what will your position be should this call be carried out?

[Al-Shaqaqi] It is the Palestinian people who are fighting the occupation and not this or that family. I am the son of the Palestinian people and of Palestine before anything else. To me, Palestine is like the a worship duty. I would not bargain over it under any condition whatsoever. I believe that the Israelis with whom I wrestled and who wrestled with me in the interrogation and torture chambers are fully aware that I can never be lured by any temptation nor intimidated by any threat. I refer Ariel Sharon and before him Yitzhaq Rabin to the minutes of the Advisory Military Court which dealt with the question of my deportation in 1988. I told the court "I do not understand in what capacity I should address you (the court panel). For if you are representatives of the Jewish people how can you talk about the torture and persecution of the Jews in history and then come today to practice the same torture and persecution against another people? But if you are representatives of the Zionist movement, then know that I will fight the Zionist movement until the last drop of my blood as long as the Zionist movement attempts to resolve the problems of the Jews at the expense of our people. If, on the other hand, you are representatives of the State of 'Israel' I do not consider you qualified to deal with the question of my deportation from my homeland as you deported my father from his village 40 years ago. [no closing quotemarks as published].

Anyway, this talk [by Sharon] creates still new causes for struggle and not the opposite.

[Salih] Who is Fathi al-Shaqaqi?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Fathi al-Shaqaqi was born in Gaza in 1951. His parents migrated from the village of Zarnuqah in the Ramlah District to Gaza in 1948.

He studied science and mathematics at Bir Zayt college in the occupied West Bank and worked as a teacher in Jerusalem before going to Egypt in 1974 to study medicine. He adopted a Nasirite line at an early stage in his life and joined the Islamic Movement in 1968.

He was arrested in Egypt during the presidency of the late President Anwar al-Sadat for a few months because of his political activity.

He returned to occupied Palestine following his completion of his studies in 1981 and worked as a doctor in Jerusalem before his detention for one year by the Israeli occupation in 1983. He was detained again in 1986 and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. But during that period he was deported to southern Lebanon on the orders of Yitzhaq Rabin in 1988. He spent a year in Lebanon before moving from one Arab country to another.

Islamic Jihad Figure al-Saftawi Interviewed

TA2303105295 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Report on interview with Ahmad al-Saftawi, prominent Islamic Jihad figure, by correspondent Kursat Akyol in Gaza; date not given—recorded, in Arabic with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Saftawi] The Islamic Jihad began its armed actions in the beginning of the 1980's. In those years, all Palestinian parties, including the PLO, had regressed in their struggle. Therefore, we decided to establish a new movement. The aim of the Islamic Jihad consists of establishing an independent Palestinian state governed in line with Shari'ah principles.

[Akyol] Al-Saftawi explained the difference between Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as follows:

[Al-Saftawi] Until the onset of the Palestinian uprising, the intifadah, Hamas was opposed to the concept of armed struggle. When the intifadah began, Hamas established the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad and started taking part in the armed struggle. We have been fighting Israel since the beginning of the 1980's. Now that Hamas has also joined the armed struggle, our differences have significantly diminished.

[Akyol] We interrupted al-Saftawi while he was explaining the differences between Islamic Jihad and Hamas and asked him whether it is right to target civilians in the armed struggle. He was somewhat evasive.

[Al-Saftawi] Israel is a strange country; the women also serve in the army. Therefore, it is difficult to differentiate. However, all those who were killed in the attack we perpetrated in Netanya on 20 January were soldiers. The Islamic Jihad does not target civilians in any of its attacks.

[Akyol] We then moved on to issues involving Turkey. Al- Saftawi replied with a smile to our question on whether the Islamic Jihad has ties with Turkey.

[Al-Saftawi] No, there is no connection; therefore, your intelligence organization MIT [National Intelligence Organization] should be pleased.

Algeria

Opposition Pressures Zeroual on FIS Declaration

MM2203155095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Amir Taheri: "After the Declaration Drafted by Haddam at Clinton's Request, Pressure on Zeroual To Welcome FIS Declaration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers—The Algerian opposition parties have intensified their pressure on the government to welcome the declaration made by the banned Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] which came close to condemning violence against civilians. A prominent opposition figure, who wished to remain anonymous, said that "the FIS took a risk by condemning violence. The declaration shows that the recent agreement signed by the opposition parties in Rome is beginning to force the FIS to change its position."

Government sources, however, did not seem willing to welcome the declaration. An official source said: We are studying the declaration. What is important is deeds not words.

The declaration was signed by Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission abroad, under pressure from U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration A source close to the administration said yesterday that U.S. policy is still one of support for the peaceful transfer of power to an elected government in Algeria.

He welcomed the declaration but said that it was "insufficient." That is because the declaration left the door open for acts of violence against civilians suspected of participating in government operations involving the use of force.

The Algerian leadership appears to be convinced that the hardline armed groups are no longer under the control of the known FIS figures.

A prominent Algerian official has stated that "this is a confrontation which should be settled in the battlefield. Those who claim to want dialogue should sever their links with those brandishing knives and guns."

Evidence emerged yesterday of the government's determination to continue the fighting as long as necessary when a decree was issued providing for the formation of a 50,000-man "popular guard." It will receive special training to confront the armed hardliners.

Latest AIS, GIA Statements Discussed

MM2203122295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: 'Salvation Army' Threatens State Employees"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—In its second statement the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS]—under its new unified leadership headed by Madani Merzak—has urged employees of the Algerian Government to "repent" or face elimination. It stressed that its operations are aimed against only "those who support the regime's oppression and tyranny."

The Armed Islamic group [GIA] has for the first time commented in a statement, a copy of which was obtained yesterday, on the change that has occurred in the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] military wing. The group's amir, Abu Abderrahmane Amin, said that his group is the only one raising the "jihad banner" in Algeria. And that it is making "brotherly endeavors before resorting to settling the situation with the pockets deviating from the unified jihad banner."

The AIS Shura Council chose Merzak, amir of the eastern region, as a "national amir"—an important achievement as regards the unity of the FIS's military arm.

The AIS adopts a more moderate position than does the GIA. It is committed to the policy of its political leadership, which through its officials abroad (the Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Mission) has condemnded the killing of women, children, and foreigners who have no direct military links with the Algerian regime. It seems that the GIA considers this policy weak and insists on pursuing a hard-line policy to topple the regime.

But many of the GIA's statements tend to say otherwise, namely that some circles are distributing false statements in the GIA's name. As is known, the GIA's activities are almost limited to the main cities, especially in the central provinces surrounding the capital. As for the AIS, it has almost full control in the countryside.

The GIA's statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH obtained yesterday, pointed out that the "jihad banner" was unified in Algeria a year ago—a reference to the "unity statement" on the basis of which groups and individuals from the FIS pledge allegiance to the GIA leadership, which was then in the hands of Abu Abdallah Ahmad. The statement, entitled "Exoneration," said: "The GIA is about to complete the measures aimed at embodying unity in the field in terms of policy, conduct, and organization." The statement pointed to "the completion of the brotherly endeavors before recourse to settling the situation with the pockets deviating from the unified jihad banner." With regard to these endeavors, the statement said: "The GIA's banner is the legitimate jihad banner of the Islamic jihad in Algeria.... And any bloc or group staying outside this framework must be subjected to the rules of the Shari'ah." It added that "unity was achieved in the GIA framework on the basis of the faith of the orthodox Muslims and the line pursued by the venerable forefathers."

The statement, which was signed by the GIA's amir Abu Abderrahmane Amin, added that "the only method and correct policy adopted by the GIA to establish an orthodox caliphate based on the prophet's teachings is the jihad in God's cause."

As for the AIS's statement, it pointed out that the Algerian regime is trying "to portray itself as an arbiter seeking to settle a civil war fragmenting the country." Its response to this attitude is that the AIS "realizes that what unites the nation is stronger than all alien intentions and ideas."

It went on: "What is happening in Algeria is not a civil war, as the ruling clique claims. It is a war between a Muslim people—who have rejected tutelage and are seeking to remove injustice—and tyrants imposing their domination by fire and iron."

It said that the AIS's strikes are aimed against only "those who support the regime's injustice and tyranny, whether they are individuals—such as those who have been granted posts in government departments, like heads of municipal councils, and members of the Transitional Council—or groups within the municipalities and institutions in the form of armed militias (traitors) or informers, regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation." It said that "all these are a military target for the mujahidin. Our last warning to them is to turn to God in repentance before they are disgraced by murder in this life."

AL-HAYAH learned yesterday from an Algerian intelligence source that Shaykh Ali Belhadj is now in a villa situated 30 km from Tamanrasset in southern Algeria. The source, who has conveyed his information to leading FIS figures, said that the FIS's second in command "is in good health"—an indication that he has abandoned the hunger strike he began after he was moved from the Djenan El Mufti Villa in the capital. The source added that Belhadj has not met any members of his family since he was moved to the new villa at the beginning of February. The source pointed out that the new villa near Tamanrasset was allocated to former President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC2303083095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Presidential Office this morning. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting.

Musa, al-Shar' on Peace Process

NC2303104395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Commenting on President Husni Mubarak's meeting and talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks dealt with the peace process, particularly on the Syrian track, the situation in the Arab world, and the means to support the Arab League. Musa stressed the importance of Egyptian-Syrian coordination and consultations over Arab issues, the peace process, and other areas of bilateral cooperation.

The Syrian foreign minister said he conveyed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to President Mubarak. He added: During my meeting with the president, we discussed every issue concerning the two countries, the Arab situation, the peace process, consultations and coordination between the two countries, and the means to promote Egyptian-Syrian relations. I will continue the talks with 'Amr Musa with the aim of serving strong historic bilateral relations and the Arab nation's issues, he added.

Asked whether Syrian President al-Asad is satisfied with the Syrian-Israeli track and the ongoing negotiations in Washington, Faruq al-Shar' said: I can say that President al-Asad is serious about the peace process and wants to see real progress in the current U.S.-sponsored peace talks between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington.

Continuing, Minister al-Shar' said: We should not be hasty in judging the outcome of the talks. But we hope that positive results will emerge. Our ambassador in Washington is fully authorized to reflect the Syrian desire to achieve progress in the peace process.

The Syrian foreign minister expressed the hope that the next few months would witness progress. He stated that it is Israel that is procrastinating over creating real progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. Asked about reports that the Arab League Council is about to adopt a resolution on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Faruq al-Shar' replied: During the Arab League Council session we discussed the Treaty, the renewal of which is due at the UN headquarters in New York next month.

He asserted: We have arrived at a unified position, which states that the Treaty must include all parties and must not exclude Israel.

He asserted that if the Treaty includes every country it will become more effective and close the loopholes that have led to nuclear proliferation in some countries.

Al-Shar' continued: We have stressed the UN Security Council's responsibility for making every country join the Treaty, based on the principle that the Security Council is concerned with international security and peace. Excluding any country from this Treaty, particularly one that possesses nuclear weapons in a sensitive region like the Middle East, is at total variance with what the Security Council represents.

Noting that contacts are being made by some UN Security Council members and many other countries to persuade Israel to join the Treaty, al-Shar' remarked: We fear that Israel will not respond to the U.S. calls to every country to join the Treaty. The United States bears a special responsibility in connection with this issue, because it is a permanent Security Council member. It can make joining the Treaty a binding issue for the sake of international peace and security.

Asked if there is any prospect of a unified Arab stance when it is time to vote on the Treaty's extension and Israel still refuses to sign, al-Shar' answered: We are working toward that end and hope to persuade the other Arab countries and the nonaligned countries to adopt such a stance. We believe this Treaty's importance lies in its comprehensive and international character. No country must be excluded, for the sake of world security and peace.

'Arafat, Palestinian Officials Arrive for Talks

NC2303103795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met at the Presidential Office today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier this morning.

Following a tete-a-tete between the two presidents, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, joined the meeting.

Also attending the expanded meeting were Palestinian Finance Minister Zuhdi al-Nashashibi; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, planning minister in the Palestinian Authority; Marwan Kanafani, the spokesman for President 'Arafat; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Israel Participates in International Trade Fair

First Representation Since 1987

TA2203184795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Mar 95 p 8

[Report by Ran Halevi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Cairo International Fair, which is attended by companies from various European, North American, and Gulf countries, as well as Israel and Egypt, opened on 18 March. [passage omitted]

This is the first time Israel has participated in the fair since 1987. Israel stopped participating in the wake of the 1986 attack on the Cairo pavilion and because of the low volume of trade with Egypt. The resumption of Israeli participation was finalized at trade talks with Egypt in November 1994. The pavilion houses 25 Israeli companies from various fields, including agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, and trade.

Numerous businessmen from Arab countries, including some which have no diplomatic relations with Israel, have visited the Israeli pavilion. It has been attended by many visitors—some simply curious, others planning to make deals. Some companies have already closed deals. These include sterilization equipment (autoclaves) and software. The pavilion was visited also by foreign television and newspaper crews, including journalists from Gulf states.

The trade with Egypt stood at $43.9 million in 1994 (versus $20.5 million in 1993). The exports from Israel to Egypt stood at $20.7 million in 1994 and consisted mainly of resins, plastic, and rubber (40 percent), chemical products (20 percent), and agricultural and food products (12 percent).

Imports from Egypt stood at $23.2 million in 1994 and consisted mainly of agricultural and food products (24 percent) and quarry products (17 percent).

Police Fire Tear Gas at Protesters

NC2203174095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian police fired tear gas at university students in Cairo today to prevent them from staging a protest march against Israel's participation in the Cairo International Fair.

Eritrean President Arrives on 2-Day Visit

NC2003160995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt for talks with President Husni Mubarak. The talks will focus on consolidating bilateral ties and will deal with a number of Arab and African issues of common interest.

The Eritrean president was met at Cairo Airport by President Husni Mubarak and the Eritrean ambassador to Cairo.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2003173795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke held talks at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this evening. They discussed African issues in general and the problem of the Horn of Africa in particular as part of Red Sea security. In addition they discussed the problem of refugees and its impact on security and stability in a number of African states.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who added that the Somali issue was among the topics discussed, in addition to a number of regional and international issues within the framework of the OAU and inter-African cooperation and coordination.

The information minister pointed out that the two presidents will resume their talks tomorrow, Wednesday [22 March], morning and will discuss bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

Chinese Trade Minister Meets Mubarak

NC2103140395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Mrs. Wu Yi was received by President Mubarak this morning. Following the meeting, she stated that she conveyed greetings to the president from the Chinese president and briefed his excellency on the meetings of the Egyptian-Chinese joint committee.

She said that the president expressed high interest in developing Egyptian-Chinese relations, affirming to her that bilateral relations are distinctive. The president noted that Egypt was among the first countries to establish political and economic ties with China.

The Chinese minister described the president as a friend of the Chinese people, pointing out that the strength of relations is evident in the fact that President Mubarak has visited China six times.

Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud said that China is a major state that has a wide market for Egyptian exports. We agreed with the Chinese minister to consolidate and develop relations, he said, adding that the Chinese side expressed a desire to increase the volume of bilateral trade and Egyptian exports to China. He pointed out that an agreement was made to export Egyptian products.

The Egyptian minister added that a delegation of Chinese experts will visit Egypt to set up an exhibition for Chinese products and study the Egyptian products that suit the Chinese market in terms of quality and price. He added that a study is under way to set up joint ventures, whose manufactured goods are to be exported to China. Foremost among these projects is a Chinese bicycle factory, negotiations on which are underway, and a construction company.

The economy minister remarked that although the balance of trade is leaning in China's favor, Beijing welcomes Egyptian products and does not mind increasing Egyptian exports.

2 Policemen, 3 Civilians Die in Train Gun Battle

NC2303071895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2237 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Two policemen and three civilians were martyred today and two police warrant officers and one citizen were wounded during a gun battle between the police and terrorist elements who stormed a train travelling from al-Minya to Asyut, firing on passengers indiscriminately.

An official Interior Ministry security source said that at around 1600 today unknown individuals entered train No. 9712 travelling between al-Mahras in al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi District and Itlidim in Asyut Governorate's Abu-Qurqas District. They opened fire indiscriminately after recognizing some policemen among the passengers. The policemen returned the fire.

The source added that one terrorist was killed during the exchange and attempts are being made to identify him. The source explained that Police Warrant Officer 'Ali 'Abd-al-Na'im, a detective with al-Minya's Counternarcotics Department, seized a Savage-model shotgun from one of the terrorists and exchanged fire with them. The culprits then fled.

The Interior Ministry security source reported that the incident led to the martyrdom of Policeman Muhammad Hasan Mursi; Warrant Officer Muhammad Hilmi Yusuf from al-Minya's Security Directorate; and three citizens. Two have been identified as Yusuf Muhammad Yusuf and Rayyan Ahmad Ibrahim from al-Minya's Dayr Mawas District. Efforts are being made to identify the third.

Police Warrant Officers 'Abd-al-'Ati Sha'ban Qasim and 'Ali 'Abd- al-Na'im Ahmad from al-Minya's Security Directorate and citizen Mahrus Sabir Hifzi from the village of al-Suhaju in Mallawi District were hurt.

The Interior Ministry source said the shotgun removed from the dead terrorist bore license number 36419-B-1288 and was originally taken from Naji 'Atiyah, an auxiliary police sentry martyred on 9 December 1994. The circumstances of his killing were recorded by a Mallawi court as Case 2108/94.

Senior officials of Al-Minya's Security Directorate, personnel from various detective agencies, and forensic experts left for the scene of the attack.

The police are continuing their efforts to apprehend the culprits. The Prosecutor's Office has also been notified.

Five Members of 'Extremist' Group Arrested

NC2103144595 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Hutaytah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces arrested five members of the Notification and Propagation Organization last Friday night [10 March].

The security forces raided the al-Sikkah al-Hadid Mosque in Marsa Matruh, detained them in the police station for two days, and then sent them to their birthplace al-Mansurah.

MB Reportedly Decides To Halt Public Activities

NC2103143395 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Munir and Tharwat Shalabi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Brotherhood's [MB] Guidance Office has decided to cease its public activities at present and to restrict the issuance of decisions to those by General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr. The decision was made in line with the principle of "Taqiyyah" [self-protection] after several members of the office criticized the MB's rush to increase its range of public actions.

It is recalled that the Guidance Office includes the general guide, deputy guide and MB strongman Mustafa Mashhur, Dr. Ahmad al- Malat, 'Ali Hasanayn, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, and Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al- Banna.

It is known that General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr has no organizational expertise or ties and therefore all the real decisions will be in the hands of strongman Mustafa Mashhur, who is already responsible for the following three aspects of the MB's activities: The MB's secret organization, the financing body, and the MB's international organization.

Mustafa Nashhur is the architect of the secret guide theory. It was said that he was appointed secret guide following the death of Hasan al-Hudaybi and continued to rule the organization for years under this title. When members rebelled against him, he appointed a weak guide so as to rule from behind him. He first appointed 'Umar al-Talmasani and the Hamid Abu-al-Nasr. The recent development now enables him to make the secret organization control the entire MB.

In another development, Dr. 'Isam al-'Uryan, assistant secretary general of the Doctors Association and a defendant in the new MB case, has refused the public prosecution office's demand to write some papers so as to compare his writing with that on documents seized from him and which, according to the prosecution office, contained the organizations's secrets. Counselor Hisham Saraya, the attorney general to the State Security's public prosecution offices, has decided to bring samples of Dr. al-'Uryan's writing from his place of work for comparison with the documents. These documents revealed that there was coordination between the MB, the Islamic Society, and the al-Jihad Organization with the aim of confronting and bringing down the regime. The MB tasked one of its leaders in Upper Egypt, Dr. 'Ali 'Izz-al-Din Thabit, with negotiating with the extremists and he carried out the instructions. The documents also revealed a link between the defendants in this case and those in the Salsabil Organization case.

Libya

TV Shows Executions of 6 Convicted Murderers

LD2203230495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 22 March broadcasts a 20-minute program showing executions of convicted killers on 19 March. A senior police officer begins with a reminder that the Jamahiriyah system is a system that aims to provide a society free of crime and full of plenty and security. The few who have become a danger to society must be removed from society, he says. They are shown here to remind one of the consequences of committing murder and killing innocent people. The senior prison officer hands over a junior officer who reads the court's indictment against the convict to be executed, who has been convicted of murder. After reading out the charges the officer in charge gives the order to execute and another person pulls down a lever and the convicted man, who is hooded and wearing a red habit, falls down a pit.

The procedure is repeated with other convicts. All in all six convicts are seen executed by hanging in the program (though several minutes in the middle of the program were not recorded due to technical reasons).

When the executions are finished, the senior officer concludes by repeating the law for murder and quoting from the Koran on capital punishment. A plaque on the wall is shown that says: "The Koran is the shari'ah of society."

Morocco

European Parliament Resolution on Sahara Rejected

LD2203140395 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Mar. 22 (MAP)—The Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation rejected as baseless and ill-intentioned the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the Sahara issue.

Responding to the adoption last Thursday [16 March] of a resolution accusing Morocco of hampering the UN peace plan in the Sahara, the foreign department said it is surprised at the contents of the resolution. 'Such an allegation is denied by successive reports of the UN secretary general and top officials at the United Nations and the UN mission preparing a referendum in Western Sahara (Sahara)', said the Moroccan authorities. The source added that the UN secretary general and the Security Council, the only ones in charge of the peace plan and the only ones well informed on the behaviors of the involved sides, have often hailed the constant cooperation of Morocco with the UN mission.

The Moroccan foreign department also insists that the same officials and institutions found out that during the decisive stages, the other side (Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] front claiming the independence of the Sahara) has sought by all means to delay or torpedo the ongoing peace process.

Morocco has accepted on December 31, 1991, the eligibility criteria proposed by the UN secretary general while the other side has not accepted them until July 1993, delaying thus the referendum arrangements. Reacting to the resolution item asking Morocco to start direct negotiations, the ministry said the peace plan does not provide for any direct talks since the secretary general and his special representative have examined all aspects for the holding of the referendum. On the resolution's call for an investigating mission in the territory, the foreign department said the Security Council closely follows the referendum arrangements and that the only observers entitled to have access are the ones provided for by the peace plan.

Morocco which has on its own initiative proposed to the United Nations to hold a self-rule referendum, remains firmly attached to the settlement plan and will continue to cooperate with the secretary general to this end. It cannot therefore accept any partisan attitude like that of the European Parliament which only means to circumvent the settlement plan or make it fail, the statement concluded.

Sudan

'First Interview' With Foreign Minister Taha

MM2203165995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Mar 95 p 5

[Text of "first interview" with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha following his assumption of his post, by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given: "We Have a Plan To Confront the Political, Economic, and Information Blockade"; "Our Relations With Iraq Are Strong and We Are Working To Move Integration With Libya Forward"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha is the 21st person to assume the Sudanese Foreign Ministry portfolio since the beginning of national rule in Sudan in 1956. He is also the eighth man from the legal profession to occupy the post of Sudanese Foreign Minister, and the third to occupy the portfolio of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry since the assumption of power by the "National Salvation" Government, of which he is an important figure.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT met with 'Ali 'Uthman and interviewed him on the motive behind the recent cabinet reshuffle and his transfer from the Ministry of Social affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in place of Dr.Husayn (Abu Salih), who was relieved of that post. We also discussed with him the relationship between the domestic issues he dealt with and the hot foreign issues he will be dealing with in the future, as well as his policy and what is meant by the term "the new model" in foreign policy. Our interview also covered Sudan's bilateral relations with Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Libya, and Iran in addition to a number of other issues. The following is the text of the interview.

[Al-Hasan] What was the aim of the recent cabinet reshuffle and what were its causes?

[Taha] The recent cabinet reshuffle is one of a series of measures which are to be taken and which will constitute a new course in Sudanese policy. Elections for representative councils (national assembly) at the level of the provinces (26 provinces) are now in progress following completion of the stage of province-level people's conferences in accordance with the political system.

The political leadership has decided that the cabinet reshuffle should involve a review of the structures of the various ministries so that it would become possible for the unionist cabinet in its new form to assume the task of the planning and preparation of projects within a specialized framework which would help to enhance the programs set for each ministry. This follows the success achieved by the various ministries in concentrating on the tasks of defining the relationship between the center and the provinces and drawing up the parameters and jurisdictions of each, and the revision of the cadre groups and their allotment to the center and the provinces.

[Al-Hasan] Your assumption of the Foreign Ministry portfolio and Dr. Husayn Abu Salih's ouster has attracted special attention in respect of the cabinet reshuffle. Does this signify any change in Sudanese foreign policy?

[Taha] The change that has taken place in regard to the Foreign Ministry involved the appointment of a central minister and a minister of state. This will permit rapid decisionmaking on matters arising, and the greater effectiveness of those decisions. Because this will make it possible to secure a higher degree of coordination with other agencies concerned with foreign policy, which observers have deemed absent in the previous era.

We are functioning as a working group with a set of ideas on how to achieve these objectives, which are as follows:

(1) Formulating policies and defining positions and relations, coupled with speedy decisionmaking in matters of bilateral relations or general international issues.

To this end we are now studying and analyzing all these issues through working groups consisting of officials from the Foreign Ministry and other bodies.

(2) Galvanizing the role of diplomatic missions abroad to give them a greater measure of flexibility of movement through providing them with information and enabling them to express the state's policy and its positions in an effective manner, and to enable the missions to seek increasing contact and coordination with the Sudanese communities abroad and establish lines of communication between Sudan and the countries they are accredited to.

(3) The streamlining and coordination of other agencies connected with the machinery of foreign policy (official and popular institutions) and the coordination of their efforts within one mechanism that acts in harmony and rhythm.

(4) With regard to Sudan's role and its participation in international organizations and foreign conferences, it is intended to have a wider presence and to coordinate matters in this regard with those countries with which we have common outlooks. Perhaps the best example of this can be found in Sudan's participation in the Copenhagen [UN Social Development] conference. Good preparations were made for Sudan's representation at it within the framework of the Ministry of Planning in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of the Republic, thus enabling the Sudanese delegation through its dealings with the African Group and the Group of 77 to put forward 33 resolutions, most of which were adopted.

[Al-Hasan] Observers believe that your interest in internal matters has overshadowed your interest in all other matters. So how will you be dealing with foreign issues?

[Taha] Though my previous portfolio was connected with the internal front, our contemporary world is an intertwined and closely linked one. Hence foreign policy and domestic policy matters overlap, and the separation of foreign policy and domestic policy would be only academic rather than real.

As minister of social planning I used to believe that an internally strong Sudan that is economically and socially advanced would constitute the best attraction for positive foreign participation.

Furthermore, the nature of the issues I used to deal with, such as immigration, development, and population, gave me opportunities to meet with the ambassadors of foreign countries, the representatives of international and regional organizations, and journalists to discuss such matters as voluntary work, religious coexistence, population issues, and development. All these matters are linked with foreign policy and have an international and world dimension.

The cabinet deliberations too have given me the opportunity to participate in discussing and tracking the details of foreign policy issues. Anyway, whoever practices politics cannot shut himself inside one circle and keep himself away from others.

[Al-Hasan] What do you mean by the new style in foreign dealings which you have talked about in your meetings at the Foreign Ministry?

[Taha] What I mean is that Sudanese diplomacy would be well informed of what is taking place in the country and would be able to express without hesitation or embarrassment the cultural change that is taking place in Sudan and to try to win support for and good understanding of that change.

I have asserted that there should be a social and personal behavior that reflects this cultural course and its ethics, particularly in the fields of truth, commitment, honoring of contracts and pledges, and the avoidance of all suspect personal and public matters.

On the other hand the Sudanese diplomat should be attached to his environment and to the Sudanese community, should work to confront the media and political attacks, and reach wider popular sectors and win groups over in support for Sudan not only in the Islamic world, where it enjoys the support of wide popular sectors, but also in the other countries where we have a great deal of scope. As an example, Sudan has progressive stances on Islamic issues, as well as in the fields of the environment, social life, adherence to international conventions on childhood, women, and the environment, and other fields which we see as part of a chain which has nothing to do with political or ideological conflicts.

We are also working to promote investment and acquaint the outside world with Sudan's rich and abundant resources by holding trade fairs. We will have a commercial office attached to all Sudanese embassies to promote Sudanese products and exports and provide trade statistics and information on trade and on the laws and regulations that encourage investment, in addition to familiarizing the world with Sudan's culture, civilization, and landmarks.

We are preparing now to hold our first Sudanese archeological and cultural exhibition in the French capital, Paris, which will include pictures and documentary films and guidebooks.

Naturally, the Foreign Ministry does not undertake such things by itself alone but with the cooperation of the various ministries and agencies concerned, as well as with the new Ministry of the Environment and Tourism, which will be dealing with such matters.

Through all that we want to depict and highlight Sudan's cultural features for all countries because the foreign information offensives have concealed all these from the eyes of the world.

[Al-Hasan] What about foreign relations with Egypt in particular, where there seems to be some coolness and deterioration?

[Taha] There are some specific matters which we pursue in our foreign policies toward Arab solidarity and the clarifying of Arab atmospheres, and which have been reflected in the government's policies.

As for our relations with Egypt, we have repeatedly declared our desire to continue the dialogue and to welcome the visit of the Egyptian foreign minister. We have also declared our readiness to establish an objective and positive relationship with Egypt based on its importance and leading position in the Arab world and the role the two countries can play in that field.

[Al-Hasan] How do you view relations between Sudan and its neighbors?

[Taha] In our policy for the coming stage we will concentrate on the development of our relations with neighboring countries in particular. In this context I have met with the Ethiopian and Kenyan ambassadors in Khartoum, and despite the short time we had, we were able to discuss bilateral relations between Sudan and these two countries.

I affirmed the importance of the development, enhancement, and prosperity of these bilateral relations. In this regard we discussed the question of activating the joint ministerial committees and injecting life into the agreements we have reached.

I also discussed with the Kenyan ambassador the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] member countries' initiative to establish peace in southern Sudan. In this context I familiarized him with the developments taking place in respect of the Program of Peace From Within, which aims to bolster the IGADD initiative and create the favorable atmosphere needed for it to operate. I also confirmed for him that the Program of Peace From Within does not conflict with the external peace efforts. I explained to him that the internal peace program aims at exhorting southern forces to contact the armed groups and establish a dialogue with them with a view to persuading them to return to the countryside. This program has achieved clear results in several areas, such as the restoration of normal life and vital services in the southern provinces. Visits to the south by Sudanese officials have shown them the stability that has begun to reign over these regions.

[Al-Hasan] Do you think there is scope for the resumption of the severed relations with Eritrea?

[Taha] Out of its concern for its relations with neighboring countries the Sudanese continued to nurture great respect for the Eritrean people and to honor the dues of fraternity and good- neighborliness. Sudan continues to adhere to the dictates of its religion and its ethic of playing host to and safeguarding the rights of the hundreds of thousands of Eritreans now in Sudan, despite the international community's disregard of them and its failure to provide them with aid.

As for official relations, Sudan still hopes that the Eritrean leadership will reconsider its position and reevaluate the situation, for Sudan has nothing to hide and harbors nothing but good for Eritrea and cares about the common interests of both countries.

[Al-Hasan] Will you be showing interest in integrational ties with Libya?

[Taha] We express our utmost appreciation for and sympathy with the Arab people in Libya, which we consider to be a living example and strong proof of the injustice and oppression of the world order. On the other hand, despite the blockade and the plots that surround our two countries we are working to promote bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of integration so that they may play their role in crystallizing the model which our Arab and African region lacks.

[Al-Hasan] Does Sudan have a special relationship with Iraq?

[Taha] With regard to Iraq, there is no doubt that our relations with it are strong and developing. We hope the recent French initiative will help bring about an end to the unjust blockade. I very much hope that the Arab countries will review the situation and adopt the necessary decisions and stands to protect the bonds of blood and common destiny among themselves and overcome the post-Gulf-crisis clouds.

[Al-Hasan] What about relations with Iran?

[Taha] With regard to relations with Iran, we hope that it moves onto a broader stage and that things happen between the two countries which will help dissipate the unjust campaign against Islam in the world which aims at detracting from its teachings and principles.

[Al-Hasan] How do you view the way to deal with the United States, which is opposed to the regime in Sudan?

[Taha] Our bilateral relations with the big powers and small powers alike are based on objectivity and mutual truthfulness. We, on our part, try to provide these bilateral relations with all the means of success on the basis of our principles. I believe that the ball is now in its (United States) court. It is no secret that there are fundamental differences between the two countries.

But concentrating on the points of agreement could lead to or achieve a degree of interaction [ta'amul], something which is not impossible.

[Al-Hasan] Do you think there are points of contact between the two countries?

[Taha] We believe in coexistence between the various cultures and religions and in tolerance between individuals, groups, and countries. Our social and political system in Sudan seeks to personify this belief and entrench this conviction. Likewise, the United States says that it seeks to establish an American society in the same way based on pluralism, freedom, and dissimilarity.

The question is: Can the United States, while enjoying supremacy in the field of international relations, set a model of international relations based on coexistence and dissimilarity that does not seek to impose its hegemony or its unilateral world outlook?

[Al-Hasan] Is it possible to learn what took place during your first meeting with the U.S.ambassador in Khartoum?

[Taha] We discussed the grievances and charges each side levels against the other. We agreed that it is possible to define and discuss matters with a view to reaching agreement.

I raised with him the question of the American attitude toward Islam, the selectivity in the formulation of attitudes, and the criticism and campaigns mounted against Islamic countries such as Sudan, Iran, and some other countries which apply Islamic laws.

For his part the American ambassador denied that the United States has an anti-Islam attitude, citing as an example U.S.President Bill Clinton's statement.

Following our meeting, the American ambassador was quick to send me a copy of the American President's statement. But this matter will remain among the pending issues.

[Al-Hasan] In view of what the Sudanese Government keeps reiterating in terms of the existence of an information, political, and economic blockade against Sudan, how do you view the way out of this?

[Taha] Our thoughts and efforts are centered in the first place on activating the role of the Sudanese diplomatic missions abroad, encouraging the creation of joint societies in the field of thought, science, academics, culture, and politics, and insuring that Sudanese diplomacy is characterized by courage, initiative, boldness instead of pursuing a policy of introversion and reticence in presenting what we have. This is in addition to exerting efforts to activate the fields of bilateral, regional, and international cooperation which could widen the scope of sympathy with Sudan.

Through our diligent efforts we have been successful in areas where condemnatory verdicts on Sudan had been customary. Thus we won a round in the International Monetary Fund through our good performance, careful study, and presentation of arguments in support of our program under discussion. The United States, on the other hand, put forward strong proposals calling for the rejection of our program. But Sudan succeeded in convincing the other countries and amended the program it was submitting to the IMF to make it more acceptable, thereby widening the circle of its supporters.

What is important, however, is that we always rely on our confidence in the purity of the Sudanese position and the fact that we have nothing to hide from the world. We also pursue a policy of openness while preserving the dictates of national dignity and sovereignty, refuting false arguments, and helping those seeking objective facts.

[Al-Hasan] What are the issues which will be given priority in the coming era?

[Taha] All issues have their priorities and mechanisms. But one should record his presence in all fields and give each issue its due attention. I believe in timely and balanced movement and not in continuous and successive movement.

Bahrain

Perry Discusses 2 Americans Held by Iraq

JN2203121995 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 22 Mar (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has lauded the hospitality of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, during his first visit to Bahrain.

In a news conference prior to his departure from Manama today, Perry said the reason for his visit to Bahrain was to continue the security cooperation between both friendly countries as part of the policy designed to preserve regional security and peace.

He added that he also discussed the efforts to continue bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly the military field, as well as the current developments in the region.

Perry hailed the role Bahrain and its fraternal Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are playing, together with the United States, in confronting the challenges posed to the region. He stated that the United States does not intend to increase its military deployment in the region, and that it will work with the GCC states in terms of participating in military maneuvers and preserving regional security and peace.

The U.S. defense secretary added that his country supports the ongoing negotiations on nuclear nonproliferation and urges all states to curb nuclear proliferation. He also urged Iraq to release the two American nationals it is holdong, and expressed hope that this issue will be settled through diplomatic means.

Opposition Figure Views Movement's Goals

JN2203162995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Nu'aymi, coordinator of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Bahrain, by Ahmad Muslih in Paris; date not given; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Muslih] Mr. 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Nu'aymi, coordinator of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Bahrain: You are in Paris now as part of a tour that includes several European capitals in order to explain the situation in Bahrain. Who has the committee's delegation contacted here in the French capital?

[Al-Nu'aymi] In the French capital, we [words indistinct] the situation of human rights in Bahrain to the French public and officials and all other quarters interested in human rights. Our delegation met with Mr. Jean Pierre [surname indistinct], the official in charge of the Middle East section at the French Foreign Ministry. We spoke about the situation of human rights in Bahrain. We think there is a dire need to address this situation for the better and end the gross violations being committed in our country.

[Muslih] Have French officials shown an understanding of your mission?

[Al-Nu'aymi] I can say there was understanding, because the Bahraini people have just demands. All the figures we have met have shown understanding.

[Muslih] You have also met with personalities from humanitarian, social, and legal organizations. What are the results of these meetings, in Paris, Geneva, or the other capitals?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Our meetings [words indistinct] its role in defending human rights all over the world [words indistinct] very much concerned about the situation of human rights in Bahrain.

[Muslih] Regarding the current situation in Bahrain, do you have any information about the latest developments?

[Al-Nu'aymi] There was relative calm during the month of Ramadan [words indistinct] summoning and interrogating people [words indistinct] the situation returned [words indistinct] 'Id al-Fitr. This situation, of course, echoes the situation that existed before Ramadan [words indistinct] This makes us worry.

[Muslih] The day before yesterday, news agencies reported renewed tension in many parts of Bahrain, especially in the capital, Manama. What can you tell us about this?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Basically, certain demands have sparked popular unrest. This unrest is reflected in the petition you have heard about. The petition bears the signatures of more than 25,000 citizens from the Arab homeland. The authorities did not show any understanding of this method. They insisted on suppressing or silencing those voices [words indistinct] the opposition.

[Muslih] What are the most important demands in the petition? When the incidents first broke out in Bahrain, the demands were a return to the Constitution, public liberties, etc. Can you remind us of the most important demands contained in the petition?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Yes, what is demanded is clear. In brief, reactivating the Constitution and reinstating parliament. The Constitution has been frozen and parliament dissolved since 1975. Other demands include the participation of women in political activities, resolving the problem of unemployment, which has become a sick phenomenon in the Bahraini society, resolving the problem of commercial recession, and returning the deportees, especially those who were deported for political reasons. These are the most important demands contained in the popular petition. Of course, another important demand is the release of all political prisoners, especially those detained in connection with the recent incidents.

[Muslih] Can you tell how many political detainees and deportees there were before and after the recent events?

[Al-Nu'aymi] We have no definite numbers on detainees. Some are detained and some have been released; the number is about 2,000. As for the exiles, the policy of deportation was exercised both before and after the recent events. Our estimates and the lists available to us put them at 100 families, or approximately 600 people. As for the losses resulting from the use of excessive violence, there have been eight deaths—people we do not know—and many were wounded in police attacks.

[Muslih] Of course, deportation is against international rules and conventions. You cannot deport a person from his homeland because of his political stand.

[Al-Nu'aymi] No doubt it violates all these. Specifically, it violates Paragraph C of Article 19 of the Bahraini Constitution. This says no citizen shall be deported or prevented from returning to Bahrain. This article is clearly being violated; the sacred rights of Bahraini citizens are being violated.

[Muslih] Do you have any statistics on social and economic conditions? Can the state respond to the opposition's demands to fight unemployment and end the economic recession. Does the Bahraini state have the resources to confront this problem? How can this be done?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Unemployment is a sick social phenomenon, but facing it is no problem, particularly if another problem, that of trading in cheap foreign labor, is settled. Foreign labor is either employed as cheap labor or is left in the street looking for jobs. If these two problems are solved, then I believe the foreigners' dignity, with which they traded, will be preserved and the rights of Bahraini citizens will be preserved.

[Muslih] Bahraini authorities and some media in the region are giving a denominational religious color to what is going on in Bahrain. What are the facts about this matter? Does denominationalism play a role in the struggle between the authorities and the opposition?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Depicting events as denominational is not accurate. It is an attempt to avoid the real problem. As we have mentioned, the demands include no denominational points. The demands enjoy unanimous popular support. The people who signed the first page of the petition are representatives of various political lines and social circles in Bahrain. This proves the events are not ethnic but follow a general line. Some of these representatives are clergymen—sunnis and shiites—and some are liberals—lawyers from various lines and circles in the country.

[Muslih] What role do neighboring states play in fomenting events or in pacifying them in Bahrain—on the side of the authorities or in support of the opposition? We have heard a talk about Iranian interference with a denominational nature. Is this true? Is there foreign interference?

[Al-Nu'aymi] Blaming the situation on foreign sides is also an attempt to avoid the problem and reflects a desire not to solve it. We believe the causes are basically internal. They prevented us from exploiting these incidents, which we consider to be internal. We consider the solutions to be internal, as well. As for interference, there is talk about interference to suppress the events, but we do not have sufficient data to define its nature.

[Muslih] How do you see the prospects for the next stage in Bahrain?

[Al-Nu'aymi] As I said in the beginning, the situation is of concern to us and everyone we have met, as well as for the human rights organizations. Amnesty International requested permission for a delegation to visit Bahrain. This request was presented many years ago. Now there is an insistence about this request. There is also the concern expressed by international human rights organizations. This concern means conditions are still very confused. We demand that this situation be addressed by applying the Human Rights Charter in Bahrain, giving the Constitution of the State of Bahrain respect and value at home and abroad. This will allow our country to progress in peace and stability.

Kuwait

Source Denies U.S. Requested Faylakah Island as Base

MM2303145095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khamis in Riyadh, Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri in Kuwait, and agencies in Baghdad: "Kuwait Denies United States Requested Transformation of Faylakah Island Into Military Base"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry arrived in Kuwait yesterday from Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with Saudi officials.

A Kuwaiti source has denied that the United States requested that be turned into a military base for the U.S. forces in the Gulf. Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Perry confirmed that he showed the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques satellite photographs clearly showing the Iraqis replacing the weapons destroyed in the Gulf war with new weapons. [passage omitted]

Soon after his arrived in Kuwait yesterday, Perry held talks with the political leadership there headed by the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, and Acting

Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah. A Kuwaiti military source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the American side conveyed to the Kuwaiti officials its interest in having a greater presence of U.S. forces on Kuwaiti territory and in having the opportunity of making use of Kuwaiti ports and bases to ward off any threat to Kuwait in particular and the Gulf in general.

The source added that there are about 300 American soldiers in al-Dawhah camp north of Kuwait city and that they supervise the maintenance of military equipment, mostly tanks, for use in the case of a threat, such as the Iraq concentrations on Kuwait's borders in October 1994. He said that this equipment is enough to arm an entire brigade and that there is a squadron of fighter aircraft in the Ahmad al-Jabir base southwest of Kuwait city. That base was rebuilt at the cost of $105 million. There are also 85 military experts there training Kuwaitis in the use of advanced weapons. The United States has also supplied Kuwait with hundreds of Patriot missiles for air defense with about 218 Abrahms MA-2 tanks to be delivered by the end of this decade (the year 2000). [passage omitted]

The source denied that the United States asked Kuwait to turn Faylakah Island into a military base for the use of the U.S. forces in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Oil Company Official Denies Violating Workers' Rights

LD2203201695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Mar—An official source at Kuwait Oil Company [KOC] today quoted Captain Khalifah al-Du'ayj, director general of the KCO maritime and export operations department, as saying "maritime export operations and services are running normally according to the planned freight and export programs of the Kuwait Oil Company."

In a statement a copy of which KUNA has received, the official source said that KOC "which followed with great interest the reports published by local newspapers on statements and views over the developments of the strike in the production and maritime departments since 18 March would like to clarify a number of facts that have not been fully put under discussion and debate."

In this respect, the source pointed to the statements of the oil workers union on "the company's failure to appreciate workers' role in production and their hard efforts to repair the devastation of the oil installations left by the unjust aggression and the burning of most of the oil wells." The source stressed that "on the contrary,"... "the company appreciates the efforts of the workers and their honorable stands during the occupation and the reconstruction periods." He added that the company "has rewarded the deserving ones similar to various other sectors of the state."

In his statement, the official source at the KOC added that the company "has not, at any time, violated the workers' rights and privileges stated in the law and provisions of the labor courts. Rather, the company's aim throughout the negotiations with the union was to safeguard these rights and not to violate them."

He said that "out of the company's eagerness to reach a solution to resolve the dispute with the worker's union it has proposed a new organizational structure in line with the technical and technological developments taking place in the world of the oil industry."

He added that this structure "at the same time will achieve many privileges more beneficial to the workers such as promotions and enjoying the benefits of training and development programs." He said "this refutes the claim that the company is unable to present any solution regarding the union's demand to improve the workers' conditions."

Oman

Reportage on Vice President Gore's Visit

Gore Arrives for Visit

JN2203140495 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Vice President Al Gore arrived in the country today on an official visit to the Sultanate. During his stay, he will meet with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Leading those receiving the guest and his delegation at the Sultan's private airstrip was His Highness Shaykh Thuwayni Bin- Shihab Al Sa'id, personal representative of his majesty the sultan.

Meets With Sultan Qabus

JN2203204395 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 22 Mar (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id met in Muscat today with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who is currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The Omani News Agency said the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting and bolstering them. They also discussed ways of increasing bilateral cooperation in all fields in the interest of the Omani and American peoples.

Discussions dealt with the current situation in the Gulf region, the sanctions imposed on Iraq, and ways of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people. They underlined the need for Iraq to honor all UN Security Council resolutions and all that maintains the security and stability of all peoples of the region.

The two sides exchanged views on the latest Arab and international developments, the progress of Middle East peace process, and the U.S. efforts to advance the peace process on all tracks.

Gore Concludes Visit

JN2303064195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 22 Mar (WAKH)—U.S. Vice President Al Gore today left Muscat following an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman that lasted for several hours. During the visit, the U.S. Vice President held talks with Sultan Qabus Bin- Sa'id, sultan of Oman.

Qatar

Reportage on Visit by Defense Secretary Perry

Perry Meets With Amir

JN2303103295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 23 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, today received U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry.

The Qatari News Agency has said that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the outcome of efforts being exerted to resume and advance the peace process and attain a comprehensive and just peace on all tracks in accordance with UN resolutions so that security and stability will be established in the region on solid and enduring foundations.

The U.S. defense secretary briefed the amir of Qatar on the outcome of his tour of the region, during which he stressed his country's unwavering commitment to support the stability and security of friendly states in the region and augment joint cooperation with them.

Perry Concludes Visit

JN2303130095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 23 Mar (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry left Doha this afternoon following a two-day visit to Qatar.

During his visit to Qatar, Perry held talks with a number of Qatari officials. Talks dealt with relations between the two countries in the military and defense fields. The two sides also exchanged views on important developments in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit by Vice President Gore

Makes Statement on Arrival in Riyadh

LD2303011095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2342 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA)—U.S. Vice President Albert Gore said: "On behalf of President Bill Clinton I would like to convey a message of appreciation and friendship to King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for welcoming this visit and for the strong friendship which links our two countries, the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

He said: "We are here as a result of the strong ties of friendship between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. President Clinton asked me during my talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques and the officials in the kingdom to reaffirm the strong personal interest in continuing to improve this important relationship and that we are committed to this." [passage omitted]

He added that "important challenges must be overcome, namely safeguarding the benefits of peace for all peoples of the Middle East."

He concluded his statement by saying: "If we look at the joint cooperation we find that it has always borne in its folds a strong promise for a better future; we will always continue to work together for better relations."

Holds Talks With King Fahd

LD2303005795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2325 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and the accompanying delegation, at his office.

The custodian of the two holy mosques and Mr. Albert Gore held a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation and inspector general; Prince Salman Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region; Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, adviser at the royal palace; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and acting minister of information; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources [name and title as received]; and 'Abd al-Rahmnan Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Press on Relations With Yemen, United States

LD2303103095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0325 GMT 23 Mar 95

[All quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Saudi press appeared today carrying the following main headlines: [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM stressed "the depth of the relations binding the peoples of the Kingdom and Yemen, and described them as being strong and distinguished, despite the accidental blemishes which were stuck to them recently.

The newspaper said the marginal border dispute, which took place recently between the peoples of the Kingdom and Yemen, could not, by the very nature of the case, be compared with the intricate cases in which border disputes between some peoples reached armed confrontations that the international community failed to deal with.

The newspaper pointed out that the natural start entered practical implementation when the joint military committee held the first of its meetings today after the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

It said that this natural start stressed once more the clearing up of the atmosphere between the peoples of the Arab nation, and ending disputes that were still in existence between some of its countries."

On its part, AL-JAZIRAH said the meetings of the Saudi-Yemeni military committee, the proceedings of which continued in Riyadh, were a real start for putting the clauses of the Saudi-Yemeni memorandum of understanding into effect, and reaching a final settlement for the border dispute. The results of the proceedings of this joint committee will facilitate the tasks of the other specialized committees formed in accordance with the memorandum.

It stressed that the actual implementation of the Saudi-Yemeni memorandum of understanding with this speed expressed the desire of the Kingdom and Yemen to go ahead in strengthening the fraternal links in accordance with clear foundations, and removing the blemishes that were attached to them.

It went on to say that the start of the meetings of the members of the joint Saudi-Yemeni military committee, armed with clear directives from the Saudi and Yemeni leaderships to facilitate the tasks of the other committees, and eliminate the difficulties which those committees might face, was another emphasis on the continuation of optimism that marked the relations between the two countries since the signing of the memorandum.

As for UKAZ, it dealt with the strong relations that bound the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

It stressed that the Saudi-American relations occupied an important position on the map of the kingdom's foreign policy. [passage omitted]

"UKAZ pointed out that the visit of U.S. Vice President Al Gore, to the kingdom fell within this framework, and aimed at consulting with the kingdom's leadership on stressing the message of stability, security, freedom of navigation in the international passages in the Gulf, the need for Iraq to complete the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions in connection with its aggression on Kuwait, and resolving the issues of Iran's occupation of islands of the UAE by peaceful means through accepting the competence of the International Court of Justice for making the atmospheres of security and stability available in the region."

United Arab Emirates

Chief of Staff Meets Defense Secretary Perry

JN2203180295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1456 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, this evening received visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the areas of the existing cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on issues of common interest.

The U.S. defense secretary's visit to the UAE falls within his current regional tour, which has taken him to Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Armed Forces Sign Foreign Contracts at Idex '95

JN2203180695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1452 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has announced that its Armed Forces have concluded 103 million dirhams worth of contracts with a number of the international companies participating in the Idex 95 exhibition in Abu Dhabi.

In a press statement today, Staff Colonel Mu'did Harib al-Khayli, official spokesman for the Idex 95 exhibition, said the UAE Armed Forces have signed several contracts with the British Melmark Company, the French Sopelem Company, the Belgian Fabrique Nationale (FN) Company, the Norwegian NFK Ericsson Company, and the French Aerospatiale Company.

He added that the contracts include military equipment, night observation binoculars, light weapons, and communications and maintenance equipment for the UAE Naval Forces.

Trade Minister: U.S. Citizens 'Safe'

NC2303101795 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, March 23 (AFP)—The two US citizens arrested on March 13 after straying into Iraq from Kuwait are being well-treated, Commerce Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih said Thursday [23 March].

Salih told a press conference that the Americans were in good health. But he declined to give any details of their whereabouts or the conditions of their detention.

"They are safe and being well-treated, in a very good manner," he said.

"I would say that 20 million Iraqis are in custody since years and they are hostages of the US and Britain's aggressive policies," he said, referring to the two countries' opposition to lifting UN sanctions on Baghdad.

The sanctions were imposed in August 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"But the Iraqi government is treating those two Americans who crossed the border illegally in a very good manner, and the decision (on their fate) will be taken," he said, speaking in English.

"We have a law in Iraq, just as there is a law in the US."

The White House said Monday that the United States had been in direct contact with Iraq at the United Nations to try to obtain the release of the Americans.

Defense Secretary William Perry has said Washington expected them to be released soon. "The two Americans made an innocent mistake" by crossing the UN-patrolled demilitarized zone on the Iraq-Kuwait border, he said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is waiting for the Iraqi authorities to allow it to visit the two Americans.

According to Kuwaiti newspapers, they lost their way and entered Iraq by night during a private trip to the border area. Friends of the two detainees said they worked for US defence contractors.

Trade Minister Reiterates Rejection of UN Resolution

JN2303123795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has reiterated Iraq's rejection of Security Council Resolution 706 issued on 15 August 1991. This came at a news conference the trade minister held this morning in the presence of representatives of Arab and foreign television networks and news agencies and the Iraqi News Agency. He said: Resolution 706 infringes upon Iraq's sovereignty and national independence, turns the Iraqis into refugees, and insults their dignity.

Salih added: This resolution calls for controlling the arrival of food and commodities and their distribution by foreign quarters. It also provides for checking up on citizens to see how their health and living conditions are affected.

The trade minister said the U.S. and British administrations are currently playing a tendentious role against the Iraqi people to prevent them from achieving their legitimate rights and meeting their humanitarian needs by promoting Resolutions 706 and 712, which Iraq rejected when they were issued.

He pointed out that these hostile U.S. and British purposes and intentions come after Iraq has approached a state in which it will demand the total lifting of the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687.

He said: Security Council Resolution 706 was not meant to help the Iraqi people, as proved by the fact that after this resolution was issued, the U.S. Administration prevented Iraq from purchasing food and medicine through the $4 billion in frozen funds authorized by Resolution 687.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said that when the U.S. Administration and Britain feel there is an outlet for Iraq, they quickly move to block the outlet and continue to starve the Iraqi people and prolong their daily suffering due to the shortage of food and medicine.

He stressed that Iraq does not need aid from humanitarian organizations because it has $4 billion frozen abroad, of which it has used only about $300 million to purchase food and medicine in 1991 and 1992.

The trade minister said the United States and Britain are held responsible for the death of every Iraqi as a result of the scarcity of food and medicine because they are pressing for the continuation of the embargo that has been imposed for over five years.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih wondered if the U.S. Administration would allow American citizens to eat food bought with their own money but supplied by foreign parties and then allow another party to come and check on their health?

He demanded that the other countries pressure the U.S. Administration to end its economic embargo of Iraq, which has caused the death of thousands of women, children, and the elderly.

Saddam's Son Reportedly Treated in Amman Hospital

JN2203163895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1612 GMT 22 Mar 95

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have reported that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president's son, is being treated at the al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman after sustaining gunshot wounds. He is being treated in the intensive care unit. His situation has been described as serious. The sources, which have reported this, say that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn was wounded during an assassination attempt last week. The Iraqi president's son was lifted from Baghdad to Amman by helicopter. In an attempt to capture the culprits, the Iraqi security forces have tightened their security measures.

Jordanian Official Denies Report

JN2303102995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic on page 17 of its 23-24 March issue publishes the following REUTER-datelined report:

"Amman, REUTER—A senior Jordanian official has denied rumors on the transfer of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son to a Jordanian hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds. The official, who asked not to be named although his position qualifies him to know such matters, said he has absolutely not heard of the presence of Saddam's elder son 'Udayy in Jordan."

Saddam's Half Brother, Son Argue Over Interference

NC2203152995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Disputes have erupted once again between Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Tyrant Saddam's half brother and interior minister, and 'Uday, Saddam's first-born son, after the latter interfered in the Interior Ministry's affairs.

An informed source at the regime's Interior Ministry has said that the crisis between the two sides was aggravated further when 'Uday made a public call through his media organs to the citizens who have complaints about, or problems with the departments of the Interior Ministry, to send their complaints so that they can be published in the media. The source said that Watban considered this call a flagrant interference in his Ministry's affairs.

It is worth noting that 'Uday, who controls a number of media channels, such as the daily newspaper BABIL and the Youth Television and Radio channel, has through his media organs, many times bitingly criticized a number of ministries, particularly the Interior Ministry, as part of the escalating disputes among the members of the regime, particularly among the circles of the ruling family.

Opposition Leader Urges Army To Help Overthrow Saddam

LD2203213095 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1718 GMT 22 Mar 95

["Open letter" from Field Marshal Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress, to the Iraqi Army—received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Name of God, the Magnificent, the Merciful. Brothers and sons in the brave Iraqi forces, leaders, officers, NCO's and other men: God's peace and blessings be upon you.

We are at the heart of the great national struggle to overthrow the criminal dictatorship of Saddam Husayn and his evil clique. This tiny band of criminals has violated what we hold sacred, our lives and our hopes for life. This evil clique, headed by the criminal Saddam Husayn and his family, has violated the most sacred thing we hold sacred and now you see for yourselves how Turkish forces have violated out lands and not for the first time. Our national soil is a precious thing which our people have gained through their sacrifice. Our brave armed forces first and foremost have sacrificed their lives for its sake and its defence is their greatest duty.

Our great Iraqi people, sons of our armed forces, the forces of the Iraqi opposition have begun their operations to liberate the people and army from the tyranny of this clique. We have never planned to fight them, but to liberate them from the criminal tyranny and clique so that Iraq can emerge pure and clean once more and the honour of the Iraqi army, sullied by Saddam since he seized the reins of power, can be restored.

Sons of Iraq, I call on you to join our national armed forces. Put your hands in ours. Join your brothers in the Iraqi opposition. I call on the sons of the armed forces to join the forces loyal to the INC [Iraqi National Congress] so that we can forever rid this country of tyranny, despotism and treachery. We are waiting for you. All of the people are waiting for you. We are with you and God is with us, with those who are working sincerely for God, country and people.

I call on you brave men not to raise arms against your true brothers in the Iraqi opposition. We are spilling blood to save the Iraqi nation, its people, its honour and its glory from humiliation, disgrace and shame which the tyrant and his clique have brought upon it.

The evil tyrant has been in power for 27 years and we suffer from repression, torture, imprisonment, execution, humiliation, disgrace, annihilation and deprivation of freedoms. Our national soil has been invaded and Saddam has not even an atom of national pride to think about defending the nation. All he cares about is his family and how it can hold on to power. You can see for yourselves how the honour of the nation has been humiliated and how Saddam holds on to power at the exense of national honour. He holds on to his seat as the nation is humiliated and the people lose all freedom, honour and hope for the future.

Once more, I tell you that we in the Iraqi opposition are your brothers. Our only concern is to save you from this tragedy. Nothing is to be gained from a future Iraq that sees no hope.

With our hands will come Iraq's dawn and the gloom of treachery, humiliation and slavery will be lifted, with God's help.

In the name of God, the Magnificent, the Merciful. (If you believe in God and perform the duties God has asked, victory will be assured.)

[Signed] Your brother,

Hasan al-Naqib

Field Marshal of the INC

21/3/95

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Protests Turkish Operation

JN2203170895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1642 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—In a statement to INA today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Turkish forces have recently penetrated Iraq's borders with Turkey, advancing approximately 40 km deep into Iraq's territory on the pretext of pursuing elements who seek to disrupt the Turkish state's internal security.

The spokesman added: Iraq considers this Turkish operation a violation of Iraq's sovereignty, and expresses its regret over and protest of the Turkish forces' violation of Iraq's territories. Iraq also stresses that the cause of all these problems, which threaten the security of both Iraq and Turkey, and of our Kurdish people's suffering in the Autonomous Region, is U.S. interference in the region's affairs, and the U.S. Administration's encouragement of the creation of abnormal circumstances that threaten the two countries' security and stability.

The spokesman said: Therefore, Iraq calls for the Turkish forces' withdrawal, and for putting an immediate end to this U.S. interference launched from inside Turkish territory, in order to guarantee Iraq's security and sovereignty and the region's security and stability.

Talabani Comments on Turkish Operation

TA2303093095 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Report on video-recorded interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by unidentified ANATOLIA correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah; date not given—Talabani's remarks in Arabic with superimposed translation into Turkish; recorded passages within quotations]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has declared that contrary to the claims of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] militants are not being sheltered in the area under his control.

[Talabani] "The PKK is actually in Iraqi Kurdistan, but in regions under Barzani's control. The PKK is situated in Dahuk and along the Turkish border, areas that are controlled by Barzani. There is also one PKK camp in our region. There are approximately 200 PKK members in this camp, most of them women and crippled people, and it is 200-250 km from the Turkish border. It is not possible for these people to engage in activities against Turkey."

Replying to questions by an ANATOLIA correspondent at his headquarters in Darbandikhan near al-Sulaymaniyah, Talabani said the following on relations with Turkey:

[Talabani] "Our relations with Turkey were good during the term of President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, but they have deteriorated since Tansu Ciller became prime minister."

Talabani also declared that his party is not separatist and does not aim to establish an independent Kurdistan.

[Talabani] "If we were to establish an independent Kurdish state, Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Iraq would not even have to declare war against us. It would be sufficient for them to close the borders. How can we survive under these conditions? Therefore, an independent Kurdistan is a dream, not a realistic option."

SAIRI Chairman Says Turkey Coordinates With Regime

NC2203192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1751 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution, in Iraq, SAIRI, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Eminence, reports talk of a Turkish interference in northern Iraq. What information do you have on this?

[Al-Hakim] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate, the ruling regime in Iraq has undoubtedly left the door wide open to foreign interference because of the policies it pursues at the domestic and foreign levels, particularly with regional states, or because of the political and social conditions under which the sons of the Iraqi people are living, conditions the regime created by its wars with its neighbors. This opened the door to foreign interference.

However, we believe that Turkey has no right to undertake such a barbaric act by mobilizing enormous troops and advancing into the Iraqi territory to that depth. But we believe that this measure was undertaken in coordination with the Baghdad regime. The Turkish Government still calls for normalizing relations with the ruling regime in Baghdad. Therefore, we condemn this interference and believe that this measure seeks to put more pressure on brother Kurds in the northern areas of Iraq, where they already are under pressure by the regime itself, pressures represented in the regime's recent military moves against brother Kurds in the north.

The Turkish interference seeks to put more pressure on brother Kurds, under the excuse that the loyals of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] are operating from within the Iraqi territory. Even if this claim is true, the matter does not require such an enormous military operation.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the current Turkish interference is designed to confront the PKK?

[Al-Hakim] I have just said that this was an excuse and that the basic objective is to exert more pressure on brother Kurds in northern Iraq after the regime itself put military pressure on them. The Turkish interference is coordinated with Baghdad to put more pressure on brother Kurds in the north.

[Correspondent] Turkey is demanding the establishment of a buffer or neutral zone before it withdraws. Does this mean that Turkey has ambitions in the Iraqi territories, or is it just supporting the ruling regime in Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] They demand a neutral or arms-free zone. There already is a safe haven in the Kurdish section of Iraq. Turkey calls for an arms-free zone to act as a buffer between it and the PKK. We believe that this excuse at this particular stage only seeks to put more pressure on brother Kurds in the northern area in coordination with the regime in Baghdad.

The problem with Kurds in Turkey is not new. Most operations are carried out within the Turkish territory and not inside Iraq.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

PUK Fighters Reportedly Repulse KDP Attack

NC2203155595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Timed with the 'Aflaqite regime's attacks on the liberated areas of Kurdistan, a force from the Kurdistan Democratic Party this morning attacked the front lines of the heroic Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Peshmergas on the Karmak axis, Qasabat Banjwin, al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

The heroic PUK Peshmergas confronted the attacking force and inflicted heavy losses in life and material on them. The remnants of the Barzani leadership's men fled, leaving behind the corpses of 15 mercenaries and a number of injured men.

PUK Claims Major Victory Over Government Troops

NC2203161495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1517 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Military communique]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers and sisters, o steadfast masses of Kurdistan. You are fully aware that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], a number of the parties in the Kurdistan Front, and the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] are determined to thwart the schemes of [words indistinct] with the aim of attacking again Kurdistan's liberated areas. In retaliation for the regime forces' aggressions and the constant artillery bombardment, the forces of the PUK, a number of Kurdish parties, and the UINC in the past few days launched a series of attacks on the regime's forces and inflicted heavy losses on them.

As part of these heroic operations, in order to thwart the 'Aflaqites' schemes, and in retaliation for the bombardment by the regime's artillery and helicopters in the past few days, a joint heroic force from the PUK's special regiment of veteran peshmergas, the [word indistinct] regiment, and the Taqtaq regiment commanded by strugglers (Siwarash), Nahra, Abu-Zayd, Ahmad Fatfuti, Firyas, [word indistinct] Talabani, Salih Sur, Mustafa Marzani, and Jalal Sur launched on the night of 21-22 March a lightning attack on the 4th Company of the 1st Regiment of the 44th Brigade of the 1st Corps which is deployed in the mountains of [word indistinct] and Isma'il Bak. In half an hour of heroic fighting on four fronts, the heroic PUK peshmergas seized control of the 4th Company camp and the 25 hills surrounding it. Our heroic forces also killed 50 enemy soldiers who resisted and captured 24 others, including two captains, and a number of [word indistinct] and soldiers.

Our heroic forces captured the following:

1. Seizure of one 14.5 mm Dimitrov machine gun.
2. Seizure of 80 Kalashnikov guns.
3. Seizure of 10 RPGs.
4. Seizure of 8 medium-caliber guns.
5. Seizure of six 60 mm mortars.
6. Seizure of three 82 mm mortars.
7. Seizure of medium-caliber machine guns.
8. Seizure of five pieces of communications equipment of various types and sizes.
9. Seizure of six binoculars of various types.
10. Seizure of one large observation telescope.
11. Seizure of one sniper rifle.

Our sacrifices in this immortal operation was the martyrdom of three of our heroic peshmergas. Glory and immortality to their noble souls and the souls of all Kurdish martyrs. Shame and infamy to the aggressor 'Aflaqites.

Barzani Congratulates Peshmerga on Recent Victory

JN2203194095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent reports from the Banjwin- (Sharpazir) axis mention that our heroic peshmerga are fortifying their positions in the liberated areas.

The remnants of the defeated forces of the leaders of 66 [as heard] today attacked one of (Nalpariz) liberated axis. Our hero peshmerga, the heroes of the field command and the Banjwin-(Sharpazir) axis, confronted them, foiling their futile offensive. They inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment. Many were killed in their failed offensive. More than 50 armed persons were killed and many others were wounded. Our hero peshmerga captured more than 30 pieces of weapons comprising Kalashnikovs, (PKC), and sniping rifles, and large quantities of hardware.

On this occasion, brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, head of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party] sent a cable of congratulations to the commanders and hero peshmerga, the heroes of the Karkuk-al- Sulaymaniyah branch, the hero (Razgari) Corps, and the Banjwin- (Sharpazir) axis.

The following is the text of the cable:

To the Karkuk-al-Sulaymaniyah field command, the (Razgari) Corps, and the Banjwin-(Sharpazir) axis from Mas'ud Barzani: On the occasion of your great victories, I warmly congratulate you and thank you. Blessed be your hands. I thank all the commanders and our brother peshmerga, the heroes of the field command, the (Razgari) Corps, and the Banjwin-(Sharpazir) axis. We wait for greater victories from you, and our people pin their hopes on you. I am sure that the traitor peshmerga will not be able, at any time, to stand in the face of your great feats. May you live for the sake of the Kurds and Kurdistan.

[Signed] Your brother, Mas'ud Barzani

Security Council Members Urged To Confront U.S. 'Lies'

JN2303092195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0836 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has urged the Security Council member states to bravely confront the party that is distorting facts and disseminating lies at a time when it is taking advantage of its control over the Security Council and of its strength, which has made it the sole party controlling peoples' destinies according to its own interests.

In an article today, the paper comments on the recent lies disseminated by the United States that Iraq has reconstructed many installations to produce ballistic missiles. It says that the Special Commission, which was formed in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, is the party entitled to discuss the issue of weapons of mass destruction.

BABIL adds that the United States, as a permanent member of the Security Council, is not entitled to announce such things. The United States should behave according to the UN Charter and rules. However, it is behaving as if the United Nations and the Security Council are simply the sections of the U.S. Department of State.

The paper points to the affirmation by all inspection committees, based on field follow-ups on various weapons of mass destruction, that Iraq has fully responded to the Special Commission, shown cooperation, and fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

BABIL says these committees have constantly paid inspection visits throughout Iraq and verified Iraq's commitment and response. They have also erected cameras and devices to monitor the installations that produce weapons. Their reports and field follow- ups have irrevocably indicated that what the United States disseminated were only lies and distortions of facts in order to confuse the general situation, which has been clear to everyone. Everyone know that Iraq is so committed and responsive that practical steps should be taken to lift the unfair blockade imposed on it.

Concluding its article, the paper points to the Russian Foreign Ministry's statement in this regard. This statement replied to the U.S. allegations by affirming that the Special Commission did not document any violation or banned activity at the monitored sites.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore Arrives

TA2303121995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. vice president, his wife, and his son arrived in Israel a few minutes ago. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahal reports that the guests were received at the airport by the Knesset speaker, the deputy foreign minister, and Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

Rabinovich Expects Talks With Syria 'in a Few Weeks'

TA2303122195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S. Air Force plane will land in Israel in about thirty minutes, marking the beginning of U.S. Vice President Al Gore's 24-hour visit. Tonight Gore will brief Prime Minister Rabin on his actions aimed at preventing the formation of an Arab front opposing the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the NPT.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, does not think the issue is closed:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] Vice President Gore chairs the U.S. delegation to the NPT convention. In events of this kinds, success is gauged after the event ends, not before it starts. [end recording]

This morning Rabinovich briefed Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres on his first round of talks with Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim. Al-Mu'allim told him that Syria wants to reach an arrangement with Israel, but Rabinovich says this desire has found no tangible expression so far.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] We must not harbor expectations for immediate breakthroughs or dramatic changes, because these things develop incrementally. Therefore, no change can be discernible after only two or three meetings. If anything has changed, we will learn about it in time. [end recording]

Rabinovich estimated that the talks between Israeli and Syrian army officers will be resumed in only a few weeks.

Meanwhile, Iran is apparently preparing for a Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli arrangement. Reports from Cyprus and Turkey received at the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry indicate that thousands of Iranian citizens keep arriving illegally in Cyprus via Turkey, and the island's defense authorities fear this is an attempt to establish a Hizballah stronghold in the event that the organization's activities in south Lebanon are discontinued after an arrangement is attained. So far, 20,000 Iranians have arrived illegally in Cyprus.

Pardon of Palestinian Prisoners Called Off

TA2203125095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the terrorist attack in Hebron and the car bombing in Beersheba, President 'Ezer Weizman and Justice Minister David Liba'i canceled a working meeting scheduled for yesterday to discuss the release of Palestinian prisoners.

For the same reason, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin canceled a meeting by the special ministerial committee planned for today to discuss the criteria for releasing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners within the framework of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. Contrary to the Yasir 'Arafat-Shim'on Peres agreement of two weeks ago, the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho has not yet been made operational.

The president and the justice minister were due to discuss the release of 15 female prisoners as a gesture to the Palestinians. The women had been jailed in Israel, and their release requires a presidential pardon. The subject was to have been "sealed" prior to the Bet Lid attack as a gesture to the Palestinian Authority [PA] prior to Ramadan. Following the Hebron attack and the attempted Beersheba attack, the president and the justice minister decided Monday night [20 March] to cancel the meeting. No alternative date has been fixed.

The special ministerial committee headed by Liba'i and with the participation of Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid was due to convene in Jerusalem today to discuss criteria for freeing hundreds of Palestinians. Rabin ordered the committee not to convene.

Rabin is angry with the PA's negligence in foiling attacks and attempted attacks against Israelis. The release of Palestinians was decided on prior to the Bet Lid attack and in the 'Arafat-Peres meeting at the Erez junction two weeks ago.

It also appears that the safe passage between Jericho and Gaza has not yet been implemented. It was decided in the Peres-'Arafat meeting to operate the passage in the coming days. The Beersheba attempt means the operation of the passage will be put off until an undecided date. The defense establishment is having second thoughts about it, as well as the permission given to the PA to transfer agricultural produce from Gaza and Jericho to Ashdod port in vehicles from the territories.

Rabin's bureau said yesterday that Rabin's meeting with 'Arafat on Thursday would not take place. No other date has yet been decided on. The meeting between Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat on elections in the territories, due to be held in Jericho yesterday, has been put off until next Sunday. The next meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian working groups on elections will be held in Cairo next Tuesday and Wednesday.

PA Reportedly To Receive More Powers in Apr

TA2203183395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Jerusalem confirmed this evening that efforts are continuing to transfer more powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority [PA] next month.

The sources told our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor that among the powers which will be transferred are: labor, agriculture, mail, fuel, and gas. The sources expressed the hope that negotiations over the holding of elections and the redeployment of Israeli forces will be completed by 1 July. The sources explained that implementing what will be agreed on hinges on the measures that the PA will adopt to control the security situation and confront terrorism.

Hebron Curfew Lifted; Weizman Visits Qiryat Arba'

TA2303092995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lifted the curfew on Hebron and the neighboring communities. The curfew was imposed following the 19 March attack at the Hazekhukhit Junction in which Nahum Hoss and Yehuda Partosh were killed.

President 'Ezer Weizman and Mrs. Weizman arrived at Qiryat Arba' this morning and paid a visit to the Partosh family to express their condolences. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the president sought to explain to Qiryat Arba' residents that the IDF provides equal security to all Israelis wherever they live. He told the Partosh family members and the Qiryat Arba' Council leaders that he will convey their sentiments to the prime minister, with whom he is scheduled to meet today. [passage omitted]

Rabin Speaks 'Harshly' on Settlers, Settlements

TA2303095895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 95 p A1

[Report by Tzvi Zerahya, Nadav Shragay, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a stormy debate held by the Knesset plenum yesterday to discuss Likud Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav's proposal to set up a state commission of inquiry to probe the situation in the pension funds, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said to the Likud MK's: "Every settler costs an average of 1,600 shekels a year, while a pensioner costs 300 shekels a year. Make up your mind—either you want pension funds or settlements."

At the end of a meeting with Prince Hans Adam of Liechtenstein, who is currently visiting the country, the prime minister spoke harshly about the settlements, saying that "they do not contribute to our security, and they imperil the people living in them."

He added that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] efforts to fight terror "encounter serious difficulties because the settlements in the territories were planned based on political considerations." [passage omitted]

Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, reacted to the prime minister's latest pronouncements by saying that Rabin "should ask himself whether his remarks are not being interpreted by terrorist murderers as condoning the bloodletting of Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 March publishes on pages 1 and 8 an ITIM report by Pe'erli Shahar, which notes that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will not meet Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Authority, next week, despite previous assessments that the understandings reached by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and 'Arafat when they conferred at the Erez crossing two weeks ago had paved the way for a high-level summit."]

Rabin Pressures Committee on Building in East Jerusalem

TA2203152695 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 22 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Yehoshu'a Mor Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been pressuring the chairman of the Jerusalem District Planning and Housing Committee not to discuss or approve plans for Jewish construction in the Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood in East Jerusalem, which abuts a cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

According to Deputy Jerusalem Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir, the prime minister, in his capacity as interior minister, has been blocking a discussion of the plans although they were approved by all the pertinent levels and they involve construction on private land.

The mayor of Jerusalem raised the issue on at least two occasions when he met the prime minister, who promised him everything would be alright. Me'ir claims that Rabin has been pressuring committee Chairman Eli Suissa through Shim'on Sheves, the director general of his office, not to discuss the plans to build 115 housing units for Jews in East Jerusalem.

Me'ir says he is not surprised because the day the Oslo agreement was endorsed by the Knesset he found out about a document in which the Israeli Government had undertaken to stop building in the eastern part of the city. "The Israeli Government has decided to partition Jerusalem," Me'ir charges. He has threatened to file a petition with the High Court of Justice to instruct the Planning and Housing Committee to convene and discuss the aforementioned plans.

Russian May Build 'Diplomatic' Building in Jerusalem

TA2303125995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 95 p A4

[Report by Isabella Ginor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The plot of land in the center of Jerusalem, whose Russian ownership was recognized by Israel this week, will be used to build a complex that will include a building "for official and public" purposes.

The establishment of a Russian diplomatic representation on the site "will depend on settling the questions as to where and on what basis diplomatic delegations will continue to operate in Israel," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told HA'ARETZ at the end of a three-day visit to Israel, most of which was devoted to arranging Russian Church and state property in Israel.

He stressed that although Russia and the former Soviet republics had reached an agreement whereby Russia will inherit all Soviet property abroad and undertake all pertinent debts, the Russian Government does not aspire to gain ownership of the Pravoslavic Church which is now being recognized as a separate legal entity. "We can help the church on the issue because our people have learned it and are more familiar with it than church officials."

He did not mention whether this also applies to property owned by the White Russian Church in the territories and in East Jerusalem, although in its talks in Israel the Russian delegation brought up the status of a plot of land opposite Damascus Gate.

"This is a very complex question, especially since the land is already being used for public purposes. We will look for and find a constructive solution," Pastukhov said.

He confirmed that Russia has decided to give priority in its foreign policy to active participation in the Middle East peace process and that in Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit next week "a whole series of questions will be posed in a broad and constructive manner."

He reiterated that "Russia will not supply any technologies or equipment to Iran that can enable it to produce plutonium for weapons and said that the construction of the power station will be done under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. There is no deception or double standards here, no dark thoughts."

He added that in addition to Kozyrev, Oleg Davydov, the minister of foreign economic relations, is scheduled to visit Israel soon together with a large delegation of businessmen. "The possibilities for economic cooperation exist," he stressed, "and we have not yet examined all the possibilities resulting from the large number of former Soviet residents living here." [passage omitted]

Ministry Denies Intelligence Experts Visited Turkey

TA2303093795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
23 Mar 95 p 13

[Report by S. Kohen in Turkey]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Turkey received intelligence information from Israel on the eve of the invasion of the Kurdish autonomy in Iraq," the Turkish papers HURRIYET and YENI YUZYIL claimed yesterday.

The papers reported that "a group of 50 Israeli intelligence experts visited Ankara at the beginning of the month in order to exchange information." According to the reports, the Israeli experts provided information and advise to the Turks based on the experience acquired by Israel in south Lebanon.

The papers further wrote that these exchanges of information greatly helped the officers who planned the invasion. Turkish commentators mention Israel as one of the countries that is supposed to back the Turkish argument justifying the invasion as an act of self-defense.

It was learned from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday that no official Israeli delegation has recently visited Turkey. [passage omitted]

Egypt Proposes Regional Treaty on Nuclear Disarmament

TA2303103895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
23 Mar 95 p A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] About three weeks ago Egypt sent Israel the draft proposal it had presented to the Arab League to formulate a regional treaty on ridding the area of weapons of mass destruction. The proposal was contained in a letter from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres. Israel did not reply to the Egyptian entreaty, and it is not clear whether it will reply to it.

Musa raised the issue two days ago in his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. According to Israeli sources, Musa's letter was worded firmly and reiterated Egypt's demands of Israel: announcing a timetable for signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), opening its nuclear installations to outside supervision, and agreeing to launch negotiations on ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, and biological).

In his message Musa did not mention Peres' proposal to him to launch negotiations on ridding the region of weapons of mass destruction two years after the signing of bilateral peace agreements between Israel and all the Arab countries, including Iran.

In the meeting with Beilin in Cairo two days ago Musa said that he had expected a positive response from Israel which would have enabled Egypt to present an achievement at the Arab League meeting.

King Husayn's Trips to France, U.S. Detailed

JN2303102495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Article by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Paris on Wednesday en route to the United States and Canada. In Paris, the King was to meet with President Francois Mitterrand before flying on to Los Angeles, where he will accept an award for peace, and then to Washington, where he will hold talks with President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials.

The King is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur, their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Ali and Prince Hashim, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir and military adviser Major General Humaydi al-Fayiz.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet also accompanied the King to Paris, where the meeting with Mr. Mitterrand over lunch on Thursday was described as a largely courtesy visit before the president leaves office. However, the talks were expected to cover the European Union's as well as France's role in the Middle East peace process in addition to Franco-Jordanian relations.

France currently chairs the rotating presidency of the European Union.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah was sworn in as Regent before the King left.

A Royal Decree appointed Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah as acting Prime Minister, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Their Majesties were seen off upon departure by Prince 'Abdallah, members of the Royal Family, Parliament speakers and members, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials.

The King's meeting with President Clinton is scheduled for March 27.

After his White House meeting, the King will undergo a routine medical checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and proceed for a visit to Canada beginning April 1.

In Los Angeles, the King will receive the Simon Wisenthal Centre's annual award and deliver an address at the centre on Friday.

It is the first time the award is going to an Arab head of state and comes after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October.

The King's talks with President Clinton are expected to focus on Jordanian-American relations, the developments in the peace process and U.S. aid to Jordan.

In Amman on Tuesday, U.S. Vice President Al Gore said Washington will fulfill its pledge to forgive Jordan's debts.

"We are committed to full debt forgiveness in 1995, and we will meet our commitment," Mr. Gore said in a speech at the Royal Cultural Centre. He reiterated the same at a press conference after talks with the King.

"Jordan has taken great risks for peace and the U.S. will demonstrate by its action that we are by the Jordanians' side," Mr. Gore said.

At the joint news conference, King Husayn said he was "fully satisfied" with Mr. Gore's pledge.

The King said Jordan expects more from Washington than the $43 million in military and economic aid proposed by the administration.

"First of all because it was a commitment," the King said, "and secondly because of the leadership role of the U.S. in terms of addressing similar problems with many other friends throughout the world. We need to begin to pick up as rapidly as possible and bring about the change in the quality of life of people in the era of peace."

The King said he and Mr. Gore addressed the issue in a "very, very frank and very open" way. "They realise, as we do, there is a need to do everything possible." He said it was "a valid question" whether Jordan was satisfied with U.S. assistance.

Mr. Gore did not promise that aid to Jordan would match that of Israel and Egypt, but said, "if Jordan is capable of taking the bold courageous and dramatic step that it took to further the cause of peace in the Middle East, I can assure you that we are capable of keeping our word."

While in Washington, the King will also meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown as well as American Jewish leaders.

Columnist: Gore, Perry Visits 'Damage' Region

JN2203173995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Mar 95 p 17

["Face to Face" column by 'Awni Sadiq: "What a Bad Partnership! What Bad Partners Are We!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No sooner had U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned from his visit to the region, than two senior U.S. officials arrived in it—U.S. Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. If some people are not completely aware of, or are puzzled anout the magnitude of the damage caused to the region over the past several years, they only have to remember the visits U.S. officials made to the region to understand the reason, and to realize that the forthcoming damage will be even bigger, as long as the Americans continue to come to this region.

For example, the U.S. defense secretary's visit to the Arabian Gulf region—the second this year—has only one objective: To deepen the Gulf states' security subservience to the United States and to enhance the causes for hostility among them. The visit is also designed to incite these political entities against Iraq and Iran, and to perpetuate their need for U.S. protection against these two countries.

During this visit, the Arab citizen in the Gulf states has heard nothing from Perry except ill omens. He assured them that the United States is determined to defend the Arab Gulf states in the face of the threat represented by Iraq now, and by Iran in the future. He also informed them that Washington had "permission to deploy a U.S. brigade in Qatar" and that the "United States wants to strengthen its presence in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and will work with other governments in the region to ensure their security and stability."

The United States is turning the Gulf states into a minefield. It continues to plunder all of their resources, thus causing wealthy nations to slide to the level of poor countries and introduce their citizens to terms like poverty and the poverty line. At the same time, the United States claims it does so to protect their security and stability.

As for Al Gore, he arrived in Egypt raising the slogan of "partnership for development". When the U.S. vice president explained this slogan he said: "Economic partnership aims to encourage the manner in which our partnership proceeds. It aims to encourage the contribution of the private sector."

This is the partnership as the United States understands, while taking into consideration the weight of each party.

However, the U.S. vice president went to Cairo only to convince Egypt to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty and to abandon its position that Israel should sign the treaty. In Gore's opinion, "all countries should join the treaty, which should be extended unconditionally and indefinitely."

Rejecting Egypt's position that Israel should sign the treaty, Gore said: "The United States rejects the link between the Israeli- Egyptian dialogue on the treaty and both extending and signing the treaty."

Hence, the United States draws a link when it wants to and does not draw a link when it does not want to. It forgives and punishes whoever its wants, and does not allow itself to be questioned about what it is doing. It does what it does in the Gulf under the pretext of protecting and ensuring the Gulf's security and stability. Any rational person knows this is the shortest path to destroying it and depriving it—probably forever—of security and stability. All this is taking place under the name of "partners in security." It is doing the same thing, in a similar way, with Egypt and other Arab countries in the name of "partnership in development." If some believe the Israelis are our partners in everything "because we are all descendants of Abraham" as they say, no one knows where our partnership with the U.S. has come from. All that we know is that it is the worst possible partnership, and that we are the worst partners.

U.S. 'Contribution' to Regional Cooperation Urged

JN2303093795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
23 Mar 95 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Renewing Commitment to Supporting Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the news conference held by King Husayn and U.S. Vice President Al Gore, his majesty the king restated Jordan's commitment to its principled stands and firm policies to realize a just, comprehensive, and enduring peace in the region—a region that stands on the threshold of major changes following the accomplishments realized during the peace process, which has not been completed yet.

Jordan's renewal of commitment to its obligations is a renewal of a pledge, which Jordan has been constantly restating since it signed the peace treaty with Israel late last year to remind the U.S. sponsor of the ongoing peace process of the need to push this process forward on all negotiating tracks in order to realize the aspired peace—a peace that will satisfy future generations.

On the other hand, the U.S. Vice President's renewal of his country's pledges to continue playing its role as a full partner in the current peace process calls for some degree of reassurance and optimism that the aspired end of this process will be attained. The peace process will continue to stumble and face extreme risks if the United States fails to carry out its vital role, in deeds and not in words, to surmount all hurdles along the path of peace.

Regarding Jordanian-U.S. relations, which have restored many of the past mechanisms of their development, we hope that these relations will continue to develop on the basis of friendship and mutual respect, especially since the U.S. Vice President has reiterated President Bill Clinton administration's pledge to support Jordan in all areas, led by the economic and defense fields. This U.S. support is intended to back up the role Jordan is playing toward establishing security and stability in the Middle East.

While looking forward to the continuation of the leading U.S. role and U.S. partnership of the parties concerned in the peace process for the sake of realizing the goal of a just and comprehensive peace, we hope to see a practical U.S. contribution toward expanding regional cooperation—a contribution that exceeds promises and pledges to what is tangible and visible to the peoples of this region, who have not yet felt the economic results of the current peace process.

Paper: Debt Cancellation Alone 'Insufficient'

JN2203162195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
22 Mar 95 p 17

[Editorial: "With Al Gore's Visit, the U.S. Administration Has the Whole Picture"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The working visit U.S. Vice President Al Gore is paying to Jordan comes a few days prior to King Husayn's important visit to the United States. The timing is definitely appropriate because the vice president's visit will result in a further understanding of Jordan, its people, its democracy, and its important geographical position and role.

The U.S. Administration is fully aware of the situation in the entire region, including Jordan. Jordan was visited by the leaders of this administration, the latest being the vice president whom Amman received with its usual forthrightness and hospitality. Therefore, one can say with optimism that positive results will come from the talks being held here in Amman and from those between King Husayn and Clinton in Washington. This is not only because the U.S. executive and legislative branches are sending positive signs but also because Jordan is confident that its clear policy in this sensitive part of the region—in this transitional phase—is a major factor in understanding what is needed in terms of regional security, stability, and equitable development, as well as what Jordan needs in the post-peace phase.

The U.S. vice president yesterday admired King Husayn's vision and Jordan's democracy and persistent endeavors for peace. What we are experiencing now did not come out of the clear blue sky but from a lengthy phase of patience and sacrifices which were crowned in our current state of affairs.

The U.S. vice president knows that Jordanian policy—which has continued to call for understanding and dialogue and stress the importance of achieving peace even under the severest actions and reactions in the region—was not responsible for what befell Jordan in terms of losses, damage, and additional burdens resulting from the regional events which Jordan endured because of its geographical position, its commitment to helping the people who suffered from disasters, its adoption of its nation's causes and human rights, and its respect of the international laws.

The vice president also stressed his country's interest in, and adherence to, the current peace process, as well as its support for the development projects in the post-peace phase. Thus, taking more practical steps to support Jordan's right to enhance its national security and safeguard its democratic march in the era of peace will support the hopes expressed by the U.S. vice president in Amman. The U.S. Administration constantly emphasizes these hopes.

Development and support, as well as raising the citizen's standard of living through productive and job-creating projects are the real pillars of stability. Therefore, any quick compensation to Jordan for what it sustained in the past, as well any support for future projects will maintain the peace momentum and expand the number of peace advocates, who were economically exhausted because of the war.

The idea of canceling the debts from which Jordan suffered due to the regional situation in the no-war, no-peace phase is a positive and appreciated initiative. However, it, alone, is definitely insufficient to begin the development phase which Jordan and the regional peoples are waiting to reap as direct fruit of the peace era. Otherwise, how can there be talk about a stable Middle East at a time when it is replete with examples of sharp discrepancies in the standard of living between neighbors who are supposedly heading for a new policy in relations based on the peace treaties and the wide regional cooperation projects?

Afghanistan

Government Sends Troops to Herat Province

LD2203134695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government of the Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has dispatched military forces and equipment to Herat region lest it be assailed by probable Taleban group's charges.

The Herat Province, as well as few other Afghan western provinces, are been controlled by commander Esmael Khan, the powerful ally of Mr. Rabbani. The representative of commander Esmael Khan in Peshawar has, while pointing to the superiority of pro-Rabbani troops in their clashes with the Taleban forces, said that tens of Taleban men have killed or wounded within the past two days of battle.

Elsewhere, source of Taleban faction has claimed that their forces have downed an Afghan Government jet fighter in northwestern Kabul.

Fights however, began escalating in the cities of Maidan Shahr and Paghman since three days ago when the Taleban troopers withdrew to the provinces of Logar and Wardak after being defeated in Chahar Asiab.

An Afghan Government source meanwhile has denied the loss of one of her warplanes in Salang region. Elsewhere, a spokesman of the Afghan Hezb-e Jam'iyat-e Eslami has announced that the Afghan Government will not transfer authority until it gets assurances as to the legitimacy, as well as properness, of its mechanism to be carried out by the UN. Mr. Amer Abdollah further added whatever plan or proposal in this regards must be supervised by all factions, parties, and people's deputies; and the UN envoy should secure approval for all the involved groups. This comes at a time when Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri has said that the transfer of power in Afghanistan is to be implemented after two-week delay.

Five Opposition Commanders Defect to Islamic Army

LD2203175695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five of the enemy's commanders, together with their 100 men, have come over to the side of the Islamic Army in Konduz Province.

According to a report by a Defense Ministry source in Konduz Province, five commanders of an enemy's battalion—Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdorrahim, Colonel 'Abdol Qayum, Colonel Gholam Mohammad Akhond, Lieutenant Colonel Amanoddin, and Major 'Abdol Odud Pahlawan, together with their 100 men, today joined the Islamic Army's forces in Konduz Province. Fifty of these 100 men are armed.

UN Envoy To Announce Date for Transfer of Power

LD2203205695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] UN peace envoy Mahmoud Mestiri has announced that he is going to announce a new date for the completion of the new mechanism regarding the transfer of power.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent writes: Prior to the end of the specified presidency term, the Islamic State had announced that the state was ready to transfer power to a base acceptable to all. [Word indistinct] Mr. Mestiri's previous peace plan was confronted with serious obstacles due to the undesirable position by the opposition to the Islamic State of Afghanistan. When the presence of Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia around Kabul ended, the Islamic State of Afghanistan suggested that a new mechanism of [words indistinct] should be worked out in consideration of the elimination of some groups.

Due to a new situation in the country, Mr. Mestiri also proposed a new deadline for preparing a new mechanism. The fact that one day has elapsed since the above deadline, Masud Khalili, special envoy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Islamabad has said the following regarding this point. As before, the state regards itself committed to the implementation of the UN peace plan. He added: Ignoring its recent military gains, the government is ready to hold talks on resolving current issues with all sides acceptable to the people of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct]

India

Article Urges Moderation in Foreign Investment

BK2103140895 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Mar 95 p 8

[Article by Sunanda K. Datta-Ray: "Safe but for Sena"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An election year budget cannot but spread itself out over as wide a section of society as possible. To cavil at that is not being realistic. The only touchstone is whether the proposals depart from the government's basic philosophy in order to please voters. Mr Manmohan Singh's fifth budget easily passes that test.

It also boasts a flexibility that might play an important part in persuading the parties that have newly acquired power that it is not their interest to reject what is now the global strategy for growth. Having watched Congress operations during the last three years, the Bharatiya Janata Party will know—as the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in West Bengal has already learnt to its advantage—that doctrinaire rigidity does not pay.

Foreign investment yields multiple benefits. The handling of petrochemicals in the Seventies, of colour television sets in the Eighties, and the scandal of Motorola in the early Nineties have set an example; that other parties will be quick to follow, now that they have the chance. There is little reason to fear, therefore, that the Congress defeat in Gujarat and Maharashtra will mean the end of liberalisation.

Nor is it fair to condemn the recent budget for being populist. The underlying principle of growth with equity was no less strongly emphasised last year when the Central developmental plan was allocated Rs 270 billion, another Rs 190 billion being earmarked for state plans. Expenditure on rural development went up by 40 per cent and on education by 17.6 per cent. So much money was devoted to the social sector, in fact, that the finance minister thought it necessary to warn people not to think "that money grows on trees". If outlay alone is the proof of populism, no prescription was more populist than the one that also gave such generous tax and tariff concessions to the corporate sector that it was criticised as elitist.

Mr Singh has twice demonstrated that it is possible to be both. Among economists, he has always been an astute politician; among politicians, he is the most dedicated of economists.

Where the Central government failed last year was in selling to voters a budget that marked a watershed in terms of both free market reforms and social welfare. Industrial development has surged ahead since then, a bumper harvest contributing to an accelerated rate of growth. But that may not guarantee that Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and his colleagues will be any more successful in convincing voters that, at last. India has a government that is not content only with talking about the poor. The failure is of communication. Jawaharlal Nehru educated the masses with a microphone. His daughter was a wizard at convincing people that even strategies that served factional or personal ends were inspired by a lofty national purpose. But between Mr Rao's silences and Mrs Sonia Gandhi's sulks, the Indian public does not know today whether it is coming or going.

True, economic policy was not directly an issue in the state elections. But an awareness of, and belief in, the Centre's larger purpose might have helped to offset the woeful inadequacies of state regimes, the corruption and harassment that is endemic in the low rungs of the administrative system, and even the grim impact that inflation and the high fiscal deficit have had on the prices of all essential commodities. It is only when bread is in short supply that people turn to the circus of jingoist politicians.

The failure is most to be deplored because, with all its faults, the present leadership does stand for both continuity and change. Those who accuse it of pandering to rampant materialism forget that Pierre Cardin shirts and Reebok shoes already had a market among Indians. Official outlets may present an image of what we have become accustomed to think of as crass consumerism, but they only seal off channels of clandestine supply. The contrast between the millions of Indians who can afford to pay Rs 600 for a crab in a shabby "hole in the corner" Bombay restaurant and the hundreds of millions of others who are lucky to be paid the minimum agricultural wage during sowing and harvesting will not be bridged by denying the former whose needs have always been catered to, one way or another. Though political correctness dictates that their existence should be camouflaged, it makes economic sense to bring their needs into the open and derive some benefit from their legitimate satisfaction.

Incoherence rises because all this is not explained, because for all its pragmatism on certain fronts, psychologically, the government is still the prisoner of the organised hypocrisy that is the Indian left, as reflected in the recent statement by 13 economists. If poverty has been removed anywhere in India it is in Punjab, and that has been achieved not through any local variant of militant socialism but through robust agricultural growth which has, in turn, fostered an indigenous industrial revolution.

That success cannot be replicated nationally without a commensurate increase in capital investment, which cannot be mobilised at home. If it is Indian money laundered in the Cayman Islands or Mauritius, so much the better: repatriation indicates a confidence in India's future that was obviously lacking when the flight of capital took place.

As Mr Rao and Mr Singh have both said, though not often enough or loudly enough, the more foreign capital comes in for infrastructural and industrial purposes, the more money the government will have to spend on now shamefully neglected areas like health care, education, housing and old age pensions. The Indian state cannot afford to bankrupt itself though trying to run mammoth unproductive enterprises into which vast fortunes have been sunk. What is described as creeping disinvestment deserves to be explicit and expedited.

Much remains to be done at the micro level. It is not the big controversies—Bofors or HDW submarines—that turn off the small man. It is the petty harassment to which he is subjected in every contact with authority, the "speed money" (to use the phrase coined by the late Subimal Dutt when he was vigilance commissioner) that has to be paid for the simplest entitlements, the absence of basic services.

Where else in the world have money orders fallen out of favour because the meagre savings that a hardworking urban labourer sends to his wife or parents in the village is pocketed by local postal officials? Clean and caring governance is even more important than foreign investment. But the absence of foreign investment and the return to the old days of false self sufficiency will not make governance either clean or caring. It will only add sanctimoniousness to other burdens.

There can, in fact, be no return. India's creditors would not allow it. Nor does any Indian want to join Cuba or

Albania as outcasts of the economic mainstream. The exodus of youth and talent, led by the sons and daughters of the most patriotic of Congress, communists and BJP politicians, of our most dedicated defence personnel and the highest of civil servants, would swell into a stampede if India were to lower the economic portcullis. Anyone who can go, will go. India would be left with only the debris of a lost generation.

But, of course, no one wants a return to autarky. With about half of India's 25 states in the hands of opposition parties, one is reminded of the Union home ministers' conference after the 1967 elections (when it was possible to travel by train from Calcutta to Amritsar without touching Congress territory) that though labels were different, the voices were the same.

Yet, it was a watershed year, marking a return to the Constitution. As C. Rajagopalachari put it, so long as the Centre and the states were both under Congress rule, federal principles (and, thus, state rights) were subbodinated to the master-servant relationship between the party high command and its branch offices. It is another matter that the more balanced equation that was then envisaged did not fructify; though he succeeded in converting a Lok Sabha minority into a majority, Mr Rao is probably more inclined than his predecessors to see the opposition parties as an important and necessary part of a national consensus that no prime minister can ignore.

The new patchwork polity need not, therefore, be regarded as an unmitgated calamity. What matters more is that the emerging consensus on economic direction should cut across political lines. The CPI (M) and Janata Dal have already shown the way. It only remains now for the BJP to return to the free market economies that was the distinctive hallmark of its businessmen supporters—from small shopkeepers to some of India's biggest capitalists—long before then Congress stole its ideological clothes. The prevalence of commissions has made a necessity of private sector virtue.

The question mark is posed by the Shiv Sena. Not because it will be loathe to follow in the footsteps of other parties, but because, being new to the game and having matured in the rough and tumble of the streets, it might press for kickbacks with so much zest that multinationals are frightened off. Before allowing the Enron power project to become a test case, therefore, the Shiv Sena would do well to look across the Deccan to Jayalalitha's baillwick. The so- called Madras Corridor would have been Singapore's first and biggest investment in India. One reason why it petered out, and why Tamil Nadu lags behind many other states in attracting fresh investment, is said to be the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's insatiable appetite. Moderation is advisable, even in courting foreign investment.

Concern Expressed Over Delay of Helicopter Production

BK2203124595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Public Accounts Committee of Parliament has urged the Defense Ministry to make concerted efforts for early production of Advanced Light Helicopter, ALH. In its 84th report tabled in both the houses of Parliament yesterday, the committee expressed concern over further delay in the project.

Editorial Urges Post-Election Cooperation

BK2003050995 Bombay SAKAL in Marathi 14 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Challenges Before the Coalition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maharashtra is to have an opposition government in the form of the Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] coalition. In the state assembly elections, no party got a clear majority. Congress (I) turned out to be the single largest party, but the Seba-BJP coalition has secured seats almost comprising a majority. Considering the anti-Congress verdict, Congress efforts to form a government merely on technical grounds would have proved both improper and impossible. Now, the coalition has to run a minority government. Under the influence of Shiv Sena, Sena has secured more seats than the BJP in this coalition. As agreed, the chief ministership has gone to the Shiv Sena and the deputy chief ministership has gone to the BJP. Manohar Joshi has been elected chief minister and Gopinath Munde has been elected deputy chief minister. Munde's name is no surprise, and it was expected that Joshi, who has a very clean, efficient, and honest image, would be chosen chief minister. The election of Joshi as chief minister, however, is slightly disappointing for the Shiv Sena workers. While running the government, Joshi will have to keep this in mind.

Though Joshi or Munde do not possess the experience of running the government, they are aware of the state's problems and they have the experience of leading the opposition. Now they have to run the administration and face the Congress [I] leaders in opposition at the same time. The BJP and Shiv Sena have differences on the issues, such as the renaming of the university and the economic reforms. They will have to make decisions together. Sena-BJP leaders had raised the issue of the criminalization of politics and corruption. The Sena chief and other leaders have stated repeatedly that the corruption and criminalisation will be eradicated completely. Therefore, the greatest care will have to be taken on issues such as selection of ministers, duties of the members of the legislative assembly, clean administration, efficiency, and solutions for problems of the common people. If anyone from the coalition is charged with corruption or criminalization, he should not be spared. This is the expectation of voters. "The coalition will be 'Su-rajya' [self-rule] and not practice the politics of revenge." This has been stated by the Sena chief. This will have to be ensured. In the Sena-BJP manifesto, it is said that "the farmer will be the king, customers will be happy, and mothers and sisters will be secure." This is a good resolution, but it will need meticulous implementation. Voters will be interested to see how the coalition fulfils assurances like "Twenty-seven lakh [2.7 million] unemployed will be provided employment, 40 lakh slum dwellers in Bombay will be provided housing, prices of five essential food items will be frozen for five years, Jhunka-Bhakar is one rupee, etc." Sharad Pasar took advantage of the central government's new open economic policies and attracted foreign investment in Maharashtra. Even magazines like THE ECONOMIST praised Sharad Pawar for this. Therefore, it will be interesting to note the position the new government takes on this issue. There is the primary problem drinking water in the state. The scarcity of water has brought famine-like conditions to many areas. This is a temporary problem, but it needs a permanent solution. Thakre has said "that the people have fulfilled their responsibility. Now it is our responsibility. We accept it and we will not let betray the confidence placed in us." At the same time, however, he has made it clear that whoever becomes chief minister, he (Thakre) will exercise power behind the scenes. He will have to ensure that he does not become a power center beyond the coalition. Voters have given the power to the coalition in a democratic way, and therefore expect a democratic system to be instituted. The younger generation has generally supported the coalition. Obviously, they have certain expectations. To solve the problems of the younger generation in a constructive and appropriate manner is in itself a great challenge. Expectations have risen to the maximum extent. At the same time, the fact is that this is a minority government. In the absence of a clear-cut majority, political stability is questionable. In such a situation, the leaders have to run the government. This is a big challenge and responsibility. It is in the interest of the state and the opposition parties as well for the Sena-BJP coalition to function in an efficient manner.

Iran

'The War Is On'; U.S. Product Boycott Urged

NC2303103995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Mar 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Boycott American Products To Counter U.S. Trade War"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an attempt to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran and to appease the Zionist regime, the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, declared on Tuesday [14 March] his intention to block a deal by a U.S. oil company's subsidiary to help Iran develop two Persian Gulf oil fields.

Conoco decided to withdraw under pressure from the board members of its parent company, Du Pont. The decision manifests the extent of Jewish influence in the decision making in the United States. Edgar Bronfman, who is also the head of World Jewish Congress, was among Du Pont's board members who pressured Conoco to cancel its one-billion-dollar agreement.

Jewish stockholders from Du Pont played an active role to see to it that the deal, which was both in the interest of Iran and the United States was cancelled. A one-billion-dollar contract could be easily translated into 50,000 new jobs for Americans. The measures taken by the Jewish board members of Du Pont, in line more with the interest of the Zionist regime than with the needs of the U.S. people, showed, once again, that the Jewish businessmen in the U.S. are not loyal to the American people and that their loyalty lies, first and foremost, with the Zionist regime.

During a decade and half since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution the United States has tried every avenue to weaken the strong revolutionary spirit of the Islamic Republic. It was through the U.S. machinations and encouragement that the Iraqi regime began the war against Iran. Throughout the war, the U.S. helped the Iraqi aggression by providing intelligence reports and materiel to the Ba'thist regime.

The U.S. enmity towards Iran is rooted in the Iranian defiance. No country in the world has ever stood so steadfast against the U.S. No country in the world has ever humiliated the U.S. as Iran did in taking the American hostages for 444 days of captivity. No country in the world has ever made the arrogant U.S. politicians reel with the pain of humiliation.

The U.S. is also unhappy with Iran for refusing to support the shabby charade they call the Mideast "peace process". Iran has its own objections to this raw deal. But as far as the U.S. is concerned that is besides the point. As far as the U.S.-Zionist strategy is concerned, all countries in the world should toe the U.S. line, otherwise they will have to face the consequences of being a non-conformist.

The U.S. has yet to find out that the Iranians put up with eight years of destructive war because they knew that on the face of it they were fighting the Ba'thist forces, but in reality they were fighting the United States. Indeed what Iran suffered, and for which it was ready to sacrifice thousands of its best sons, was not the Iraq-Iran war, but the U.S.-Iran war.

The U.S. officials must realize that as it did not succeed in its eight-year war against the resilient nation of Iran, it will also fail in any financial war that it launches against Iran. The U.S. is wrong in imagining that Iranians, who have historically been among the world's best traders, will fail in finding investment partners and in strengthening their economy. The U.S. officials themselves must have been examples of Iranian resourcefulness among the strong community of the Iranian businessmen residing in the U.S. They should have learnt a lesson and should have called off their trade war against Iran.

Now that the war is on, it is also up to Iranians to boycott all types of American products in a tit-for-tat measure. If the U.S. wants to ensure that our economy does not prosper, we must take measures to make sure that the U.S. products are not sold in our market. The Americans have said it themselves that what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Perry's Tour Said Linked to Arms Sales

NC2203144195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 21 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Secretary of Defense William Perry's Visit to Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry is on a visit to the Middle East. The news agencies have reported that he concluded his talks in Saudi Arabia and left for Kuwait on 20 March. William Perry held talks with King Fahd and other Saudi officials on military cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia. He drew attention to Iraq's intention to repair its factories to produce arms and said that Baghdad has intensified its military activities. Perry also warned that Iraq may become a dangerous military threat again. The Saudi officials, particularly Defense Minister Sultan Bin-'abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, are said to have responded to Perry's views by informing him that U.S. military forces can use Saudi Arabia's air bases and ports in an emergency.

William Perry is said to have held talks with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and other officials on military issues soon after he arrived in Kuwait. Their talks are said to have been similar to those Perry held with the Saudi officials.

The objective of William Perry's visit to Kuwait is to inspect the Ahmad al-Jabir air base, where U.S. military aircraft have been based since Iraq's military activity on Kuwait's border in 1994.

The countries in the Persian Gulf look alike. In fact, they look just like the classrooms of a school, in which U.S. teachers are responsible for the education and training of the students.

The six GCC members are important for the United States. Washington wishes to have them follow the direction it draws up for them. Washington plans to strengthen its presence in the Persian Gulf by increasing its arms sales to the countries in the region. That is why the United States has held joint military exercises with them during the past few years.

However, the United States is not the only country that wishes to fill its pockets by selling arms to those countries, which are not even able to draw up their own policies. Britain is another country that sells arms to them. Secretary of Defense Douglas Hurd visited the region some time ago. His visit must be assessed as an effort to realize Britain's objectives in the region. Meanwhile, the eagerness of the Persian Gulf countries to buy U.S. and British arms after the Gulf War can be attributed to the diabolical designs of the imperialist forces.

The United States competes with the other Western countries on arms sales to the Middle East. It wishes to increase its arms sales in order to be able to control the arms markets. In view of that, William Perry's visit to the region must be viewed from that angle.

U.S. Chemical Weapons Claim Said 'Fictitious'

LD2303085495 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, March 23, IRNA—Iran has termed as "baseless and fictitious" the recent allegations made by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry that Iran hs deployed chemical weapons in the Persian Gulf islands.

Perry, who is now in the Persian Gulf region, in an interview on Wednesday [22 March] claimed that Iran has moved 8,000 troops and various military equipment, including surface to air and surface to sea missiles as well as chemical weapons in the strategic islands in the Hormuz Strait.

However, later he changed his assertions and claimed that Iran had stationed only 6,000 troops in the islands.

A statement issued by Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations in New York on Wednesday called Perry's remarks "intentional distortion of facts and actual events" in the Persian Gulf and a "prima facie example of imposition of self-interested U.S. analysis" in the Persian Gulf.

The statement said that the remarks are aimed to portray Iran as a threat to the stability of the Persian Gulf countries and shippping lanes and thereby justifying an even greater U.S. presence in the area, as well as increasing the supposed need and dependence of those countries to (?")what Mr. Perry is selling, i.e., military contracts and hardware. (?") [punctuation garbled]

"Mr. Perry's scare tactics as a sales pitch may win him a few more military contracts to keep some U.S. military industries alive for a while, but on policy ground it is doomed to fail in the long run, just as the failure of general U.S. policy towards Iran is becoming gradually clearer and a public knowledge," read the statement.

It continued that as a victim of chemical weapons, Iran has denounced this and other weapons of mass destruction and has attempted to strengthen the international regime prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their destruction.

Iran played an active part in drafting, and negotiation of the new chemical weapons convention which it signed on 13 January 1993, it added.

"Mr. Perry's baseless allegation that Iran has deployed chemical weapons in the islands in the Persian Gulf is fictitious and makes little, if any, military sense," objected the statement.

It said that the Persian Gulf waterway constitutes the jugular vein of Iran's economy and those of other littoral states and that as the largest littoral state of the Persian Gulf, Iran would be best served by stability of shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf.

Therefore, it said, it was a distortion of logic and simple facts to allege that Iran's defensive actions in its territories may pose a threat to the stability of the Persian Gulf or its littoral states.

It concluded that assessment of "Iran's reasonable defensive requirements" by those who conveniently forget recent threats of attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran and selectively limiting and directing it to the Persian Gulf and its littoral states, carry very little weight and reveals ulterior motives.

Foreign Ministry Denies Perry Claims

LD2303092895 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi in a statement issued here Thursday [23 March] dismissed as "sheer lie" U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's recent allegations that Iran had deployed chemical weapons in the Persian Gulf islands.

Sarmadi termed these claims as Washington's fresh efforts "to portray an insecure and unstable image of the region to sell more arms to the Persian Gulf Arab states."

Perry, on an official visit to the Persian Gulf littoral states, made the claim in Bahrain on Wednesday.

Sarmadi said Iran, as a main victim of chemical weapons, has played an active role in drafting the convention on banning such weapons and has been among first countries to sign the convention due to the losses it has suffered from their deployment and because of its staunch opposition to development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

He underlined that Iran's buildup in the Persian Gulf was fully for defensive purposes and contrary to what the American officials claimed, it not only did not threaten the interests of the regional states, but rather served the cause of regional security and was for defending the country in view of the common threats faced by the Muslim world.

He said Iran's combat readiness inside its territory was "completely natural and justifiable" and "does not concern the U.S."

Sarmadi underscored that the Islamic Republic of Iran would adopt any measure necessary for its defense within the framework of international conventions and would not get anyone's consent in this regard.

He also strongly rejected Perry's claims on Iran's deployment of chemical arms in the mouth of the Persian Gulf to threaten shipping and control the oil flow in the region.

Such claims, added the Iranian official, indicate that owners of arms manufacturing plants in the U.S. and the representative of arms cartels, i.e. the U.S. defense secretary, should adopt all means, including false news, creating an atmosphere of pessimism, intimidating the regional states and misleadinbg the world public opinion, to materialize the sale of new American arms to the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Concluding his remarks, the Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed hope that Washington's efforts aimed at distancing regional countries would prove "futile."

Daily on Regional Impact of U.S. Policies

NC2303124495 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Mar 95 p 14

[Unattributed commentary: "The Fate of Those Rendering Service to the United States!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

What is going on around us? This is a question that a more precise summary can be presented nowadays than was possible in the past.

In Afghanistan, combatant groups that for years had fought against the Russian aggressors fell into the U.S. trap and have pinned their hopes on U.S. assistance, which has specific objectives and strings attached as well. Eventually this created such conditions that even after the end of the occupation of Afghanistan, war and bloodshed continued in this land.

It is possible that even though a justification is presented every time such clashes take place, it is completely clear that the source of all these incidents can be found in Washington. The United States is striving to destroy all the modern weaponry and armaments in Afghanistan by means of a civil war there. These weapons were poured into Afghanistan to combat the Red Army, and the United States is now trying to ensure that nothing remains from that arsenal.

If until yesterday the Afghan groups had haggled for a greater share of central power, today another group would have emerged and would have demanded all the shares collectively. The Taleban group, which has recently arrived on the scene, has not proved its mettle, its military and operational capabilities in any war. On the basis of a bluff [preceding word in English] of orders from above or capitalizing on the weak points of others, the Taleban has become a self-styled "real shareholder" and all the Afghan groups today have realized more than ever before that they have been duped by the United States.

In Pakistan, the United States spends funds taken from the ample pockets of the Saudis and has created a subversive group in order to disrupt Pakistan's national security. The Sipah-e Sahaba [Wahhabi anti-Shiite group allegedly backed by Saudi Arabia] has been nurtured in Pakistan by the United States. This group has some heavy assignments to carry out in Pakistan in the future as the United States has many dreams for this Islamic country and its great people.

In the young Central Asian republics and the Caucasus, the United States is seeking to infiltrate gradually into the politico-economic fabric of these republics so that at an opportune moment it can capitalize on the situation for its own advantage. From Washington's vantage point, the present is the best opportunity for capitalizing on the disarray, discrepancies, and shortcomings in these nascent republics. The United States is preparing to deal its trump card in tomorrow's game when it will be playing with the destinies of these nations and countries.

Turkey has knocked on every door so that it can be considered a U.S. and Western ally, but has always been considered rather low level and inferior. Its leaders have been led to the fountain but made to return thirsty. Recently, the West gave Turkey the green light to make an enormous investment in fomenting a crisis in northern Iraq. It took a major step toward Iraq's dismemberment by establishing an Iraqi Kurdistan government and even gave the Incirlik military base with all its facilities to the Poised Hammer forces.

However, Turkey realized very soon that the first loser in the dismemberment of Iraqi Kurdistan, who would forfeit far more and even before anyone else, would be Turkey itself. Today the same slogan and spirit of secession has spread to the Turkish provinces as well. The Ankara government, which had itself initiated this shameful game, is resorting to all kinds of crimes, such as the savage massacre of Turkish Kurds, but is not making any headway. Despite making many incursions by Turkish forces into Iraq's sovereign territory and the sanguinary and criminal repression of the Kurds it does not feel a sense of tranquillity. This is because the United States and the Zionists have rather troublesome dreams in mind for Turkey.

In Iraq the conditions are even more pitiful. At one time, Saddam, the Lord of the Qadisiyah, was the recipient of the accolades of all the mass media of the reactionary Arabs and was the most popular figure in the East and West. He fought against the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic world movements at the expense of the foolish Western Croesuses and did not spare any atrocity in doing so. Today, the unfortunate Lord of the Qadisiyah regrets the services that he rendered and the crimes he perpetrated for the United States and there is no path of return for him.

In those days, wherever the Iraqi foreign minister and officials went they sought audience with heads of state immediately on their arrival at the airport. Today, the same officials are knocking on ever door and pleading for the lifting of the multilateral embargo on Iraq, but they are unsuccessful and have to return empty-handed.

In Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the situation is even more critical. Despite all Fahd's services to the United States and Israel, the United States is not even waiting for his demise, and is already seeking replacements for him. Among the decrepit profligate Saudi princes there are those who are traipsing in the corridors of the U.S. State Department and Congress and lobbying for the approval of their mentors. Apparently, Washington does not seem to have any inclination to choose the incumbent ruler from among the Al-Sa'ud clan.

In Kuwait, the situation is similar. There was a time when the Al-Sabahs felt a sense of independence and uttered belligerent noises for the benefit of the Lord of the Qadisiyah. They had even bestowed on him the title of the "Pride of the Arabs." Today, they do not feel secure even under the banner of the United States. They are constantly asking their mentors to stage military maneuvers near Iraqi borders in order to warn Baghdad not to have designs on Kuwait.

All the Persian Gulf shaykhs are insignificant from the U.S. perspective and do not even merit this kind of attention. This is because the United States has entrusted this assignment to Israel and henceforth Israel is to assert its domination over them and with an active presence on the political and economic scene of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries it will carve out their destinies for them.

In conclusion, what do these developments point to? Nothing except that servility on the part of those countries whose eyes are pinned on the United States brings nothing but regret, shame, insecurity, and unfulfilled hopes. Today, the fate of the oil Croesuses and their complete subservience and bewilderment should prove a major lesson for them and for those who continue to tread along this path. It should drive home to all that this is the reward of treachery to nations and servitude to the criminal United States and nothing else. This is only the beginning and this disgrace and dishonor will proliferate even further.

Russians Defend Sale of Advanced Submarines

NC2103104695 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 21 Mar 95

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, March 21 (AFP)—Iran's acquisition of two advanced Russian submarines has largely bolstered its naval power, Russian experts said Tuesday [21 March] amid Western concern at Tehran's arms programme.

The two submarines, which may be joined by a third in a year, are among the most sophisticated in the world and their low noise makes it too difficult for warships and aircraft to detect them, the experts told AFP.

Their 18 torpedoes, 24 mines and portable surface-to-air Igla (needle) missiles also make them some of the most dangerous enemies of naval or air forces, they added.

"This submarine is one of the most advanced in the world. It can win in a struggle against a warship regardless of its size," said an expert from the Russian state Corporation for Export and Import of Armament and Military Equipment, which is participating in an international defence show here.

"It can hide, use torpedoes or mines. Its Igla missiles are even more accurate than the US stingers and the problem for a helicopter is to find it as it has a very low noise. It is really a strong support for the navy."

Russia, seeking to boost arms exports to finance reforms following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, has sold two Kiloclass 877 EKM submarines to Iran in a deal that exceeded 700 million dollars. A third is expected to be delivered in a year.

The experts refused to say if the third is Kiloclass 636, an improved version of the EKM. But they noted it has been in service in the Russian navy and could be sold to other countries needing such units.

The diesel-run EKM, nearly 72 metres (yards) long, can accommodate 52 crewmen, has a speed of around 37 kilometres (23 miles) and travels as far as 12,000 kilometres (7,500 miles).

"It is a black hole in the ocean. It fires torpedoes at high speed and plants mines without being detected. In a confrontation, the most difficult task for warships or aircraft is to find it," a Russian expert said.

Non-Arab Iran, a key OPEC oil producer, is the first Gulf state to have bought submarines in plans to rebuild its army shattered during the 1980-1988 war with neighbouring Iraq.

But the deal has triggered concern among Western allies who fear Iran could be re-arming to destabilise the region amid strained relations with its neighbours due to a row over the sovereignty of three Gulf islands with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Iran's military capabilities go beyond its defensive needs, which constitute a danger to the Gulf states," US Defence Secretary William Perry told reporters on Monday during a visit to Saudi Arabia.

And he added the United States, which has 18,000 troops in the region, was closely watching an Iranian military buildup on islands that control the Hormuz Straits.

Hormuz, the Gulf's only gateway, is the most vital naval crossing in the world as nearly one fifth of the global crude supplies pass through it.

Iran threatened to block the strait and used speedboats to raid loaded oil tankers during the conflict with Iraq after accusing the United States of aiding Baghdad.

"The Iranian submarines pose a threat to the region if they are used for hostile purposes," British Minister for Defence Procurement Roger Freeman told AFP at the Abu Dhabi ground and naval arms show that has attracted over 600 companies.

"It is up to Gulf states to decide what they need to counter that threat. As far as we are concerned, we are ready extend help and support."

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1010 GMT on 21 March adds the following: "Russia sought on Tuesday to ease fears by Gulf states about Iran's acquisition of two advanced submarines, saying they would not upset the military balance in the volatile region.

["'Our experts have come to a conclusion that the two submarines will not upset the military balance in the Gulf. 'We care for maintaining this balance and we will always been keen about this issue', said Russian ambassador in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oleg Derkovsky. 'We have always expressed our readiness to practically contribute to stability in the Gulf. We are trying to establish good bilateral ties with all states of the region, including Iran, and I think this will contribute to security in the area.'

["Derkovsky, who was speaking at an international defence show here said he could not confirm reports that Russia is about to deliver a third submarine to Iran, which has already acquired two in a package that was worth more than 700 million dollars. The two Diesel-run Kiloclass submarines, which were delivered over the past two years, have sparked concern by the West and its Gulf Arab allies on the grounds they pose a threat to shipping.

["Boris Kuzyk, assistant to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on military and technical cooperation, said Russia was not violating international laws by supplying arms to Iran. He told reporters such an issue had been discussed with the United States. 'We told them that our military cooperation with the Iranians is not violating arms limitations under international laws. We have obligations towards all our friends,' he said.

["He disclosed Russia had concluded arms deals worth nearly 1.5 billion dollars since the start of this year but he did not identify the clients. 'Our military sales around the World maintained nearly the same level last year while those by the United States declined by more than 2.5 times', he said."]

GCC Wants International Court To Mediate on Islands

LD2203210295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to (?AFP), the Foreign Ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC [GCC], in their recent meeting held in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, while issuing a statement, have repeated their baseless and unsubstantiated claim concerning the three Iranian Persian Gulf Islands. In the statement, the PGCC member states have asked the

Islamic Republic of Iran to agree with bringing the issues under dispute at the International Court of Justice, ICG, at The Hague.

A spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry, Tuesday March 21st, expressed regret at the latest statement of the PGCC Foreign Ministers and noted: Iran's Persian Gulf islands are to remain her territories forever. Undoubtedly the only way for preserving security and tranquillity in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region is to forge sustained unity and cooperation among the regional states and to remove the existing rifts and misunderstandings through amicable means without any alien power intervention. The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly sought promotion of ties with its neighbours in the region. It believes the deepening of ties and closeness among the regional states alone can keep the hegemonic foreign powers away and prevent emergence of disputes among the neighbouring states.

In their latest statement, the PGCC member states have asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to agree with the (?assertion) of the issue of the Iranian islands to the ICG. This matter is being mooted at a time when many of these states themselves have already territorial disputes with one anther but none of them has so far referred its dispute to international courts. Ironically now these same states want the Islamic Republic of Iran to put its indisputable sovereignty over its territory to international arbitration.

It must also be pointed that the only effective way to remove the existing misunderstandings is to hold direct bilateral talks. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced its readiness for holding talks with the United Arab Emirates officials. In the same connection Dr Velayati, Iran's Foreign Minister, paid a visit to the UAE recently. Since Islamic Iran has, on numerous occasions, shown its good faith on conducting talks in order to remove the present misunderstandings, it is now the turn of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to responde positively to the bona fide intentions expressed by Iran.

Petrochemical Export Said To Reach $450 Million

LD2303111095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the conclusion of the first phase of the piped gas network to the towns of Nur and Mahmud Abad, Mazandaran Province, more of our compatriots are now enjoying the benefit of natural gas.

According to the Central News Unit from Sari, a total of 3.2 billion rials have been invested in the implementation of the first phase of piped gas network to towns of Nur and Mahmud Abad.

At the ceremony marking the occasion, Mr. Aqazadeh, oil minister, announced: At present gas has been piped to the country's 216 cities. He explained the policy of the Ministry of Oil and added: In 1374 [beginning 21 March 1995], the export of petrochemical products will reach $450 million dollars.

Pakistan

More Ramzi Accomplices Arrested in Peshawar

BK2303045195 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Mar 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar—Three more accomplices of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, an accused involved in the World Trade Center blast, were arrested by the sensitive Pakistani agencies, one of whom is also suspected to be involved in the assassination plan of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Sources confided to THE FRONTIER POST that two of them are employees of Peshawar-based Afghan NGOs [non-governmental organizations], while one other deals in some business in Peshawar. They were arrested from University Town and Secondary Board areas across on Jamrud Road. With the arrest of these three persons, the authorities are expecting to get some clues of Aimal Kansi, reportedly involved in killing of CIA man.

The joint operation was conducted by two Pakistani agencies and the personnel of the JIT (Joint Operation Team) were in plain clothes. All of them, personnel of the agencies, were trained commandos. The names of the arrested could not be ascertained as when asked, one of the officials expressed lack of knowledge.

It may be mentioned here that the same agencies after getting a list from the Interior Ministry, conducted different raids last week in a number of localities in Peshawar. During the raids, six people were arrested in the first move while two others arrested in the second. The massive campaign against the wanted accused is in progress.

Six accused who are arrested in first move have been sent to Asiala Jail for further interrogation. They were charged of accompanying Ramzi in his activities. The arrest of the three in the third phase was possible following interrrogation of the two accused who were arrested in the second move.

The local police and sensitive agencies are hounding for the four Aghan nationals who resided in Chamkeni, Pabbi Town and Dawoodzal areas. They are charged of terrorist activities in the country.

It is to be recalled here that a few days back the most wanted suspect in the world, Ramzi Yusuf, was arrested by American CIA along with officials if ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) from Sokawa rest house, Islamabad. Soon after his arrest, he pleaded not guilty.

In the present operations the most important agencies Crime Investiigation Department (CID), Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), the local police, Intelligence

Bureau's officials, Inter Service Intelligence are involved. An official of the local police said that they took part in the operation on only once or twice otherwsise the campaign is being carried out by the agencies themselves.

FIA Official Says Kansi Not Arrested

BK2203071495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Mar 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—With both Pakistani officials and western diplomatic sources not confirming or denying the arrest of Mir Aimal Kansi, the alleged assassin of two CIA officers, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has launched a massive country wide crackdown on terrorists and militants, both local and those of Arab origin.

Meanwhile two senators—Hafiz Hussain Ahmed and Aftab Shaikh - said in the Senate Tuesday that Kansi, sought by the United States, was arrested in a raid conducted Monday at Quetta and Bashin in Balochistan. But Interior Minister Maj. Gen. (retd.) Naseerullah Babar, did not confirm or deny Kansi's arrest, but admitted that two people had been taken into custody. He would not identify them. The Foreign Office offered no comment and expressed lack of knowledge about Kansi's arrest.

A senior FIA official, speaking under strict anonymity confirmed to The News that Kansi was not among those recently arrested. But, he said the FIA had now a much expanded role to fight terrorism and was conducting all the major operations against alleged terrorists.

Kansi, 31, had allegedly killed two CIA officials and injured three others in a shooting incident outside the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in Washington on January 25, 1993. Following this firing, Kansi had reportedly fled to Pakistan.

Commenting on the speculation about Kansi's arrest, a US embassy spokesman said that "they had no information on the arrest of the terrorist suspect."

Confusion prevailed on the whole Quetta episode with some officials suggesting that "those arrested may include Kansi", who, they said, was taken into custody while he was frequently travelling between Kandahar and Quetta. "Several things are under consideration" they said, but refused to disclose the names of those arrested during Monday's operation in Quetta.

Officials say that the country wide crackdown was launched as a result of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent revelation that the extradited WTC [World Trade Center] bomb plot suspect Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf had made an abortive attempt to kill her in 1993.

They said that the FIA had picked up over eight persons from Quetta, Islamabad and Peshawar and all of them belong to NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] being run by Arabs. Investigators have got remand for further probe.

FIA sources said that the Agency, with its new role and wider mandate, has full record of Ramzi's attempt to kill Ms Bhutto, but one of the explosive went off, wounding Ramzi and he was subsequently taken to a hospital in Karachi."

Investigations reveal that Ramzi's right hand was operated upon by one Dr. Niazi of Karachi's Jinnah Hospital, where he went for treatment after getting medical attention at Agha Khan hospital. Ramzi, got admission in the hospital using a fake name, Adam Ali Baloch, and took the excuse that a gas lighter blew up in his hand.

"We have opted for the proper legal procedure to try all of them in Pakistan" say officials.

The news about the possible arrest of Kansi spread quickly, following a statement made by opposition Senators in the Upper House. They said Kansi, along with Abdul Ghani, accused in a fake currency racket, were arrested and the pair was brought here by a specially-hired C-130.

FIA officials, however, admitted that several persons have been arrested and transported to safer places in the federal capital. They said the request to hire C-130 was made by the FIA to the Interior Ministry and use of plane was necessary to transport the terrorists as quickly as possible.

The Interior Minister told the Senate "we have not handed over the arrested men to the United States." He was replying to a question by Deputy Chairman, Mir Abdul Jabbar, who also belongs to Balochistan. Babar assured the Upper House that no Pakistani national would be extradited to the US or any other country without going through the legal process here. Last month, Pakistan hastily extradited Ramzi. Earlier, this month, Pakistani police detained six people who reportedly had links with Ramzi. The six—an Iranian, three Sudanese and two Pakistanis—are said to be a nearby jail.

Babar said Ramzi was not a Pakistani national. He was born in Kuwait and had three nationalities and passports, the minister said, without giving details.

In August last year, a team from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation was in Quetta looking for Kansi, but their search, in which they were assisted by Pakistani soldiers, was unsuccessful.

The US government had posted a reward of upto $100,000 for information leading to the arrest of Kansi. Private citizens and organisations in the US are also offering substantial additional reward money. The identity of anyone providing information will be held in the strictest confidence, said the reward advertisement published in 1993.

According to FIA officials, the crackdown on terrorists and militants will continue under the policy of the government to flush them out.

They added that all of these terrorists are involved in the recent spate of terrorism in some parts of the country, particularly Pakistan's commercial capital - Karachi. All the civil and military intelligence agencies and law-enforcing departments have become more active to nab terrorists following the killing of two US consulate staffers in Karachi. A team of US FBI is currently assisting police and different agencies to find clues leading to the daredevil killers of these US nationals.

Bhutto, Leghari, Waheed Meet on Karachi Situation

BK2203100495 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Mar 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad , March 21—President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday [21 March] held over two hours' long meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] General Abdul Waheed and discussed with them various political and administrative measures to restore law and order in Karachi.

"The problem of Karachi is multi-dimensional and needs immediate efforts to resolve political, socio-economic and ethnic issues there, the meeting concluded," a source close to the presidency told Dawn after the meeting.

The source said that the unrest in Karachi and the over-all political situation in the country was discussed threadbare during which Chief of the Army Staff General Abdul Waheed offered all possible support to the Karachi administration for nabbing terrorists and anti-social elements.

The source said that the today's meeting was the part of new efforts to restore normality in the provincial metropolis. The army chief had also held separate meetings srecently with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and former caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi and reportedly discussed with them the Karachi situation.

President Leghari told the prime minister and the COAS that he was planning a visit to Karachi after March 26 where he would meet all shades of people in order to create harmony among political and ethnic groups there.

The source said that the president was of the view that all the political forces should be involved for achieving lasting peace in Karachi through dialogue and the spirit of accommodation.

The prime minister briefed both the president and the COAS about her latest decision to extend new powers to the Rangers so as to apprehend the terrorists and snipers. Sources said she was confident that vesting more powers to the Rangers would help improve the prevailing conditions in Karachi.

The source said the prime minister made it clear to the president and the COAS that her government would take very strict action against those who were planning to destroy the peace of Karachi by organising strikes in the city.

A source in the presidency said that the president, the prime minister and the COAS were convinced that a foreign hand was involved in terrorist activities in Karachi about which the Clinton Administration has also been briefed.

The source said that the prime minister told both the president and the COAS that criminal cases against Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] chief Altaf Hussain were registered during the Nawaz Sharif government with the approval of the army leadership and that she would not withdraw them.

Ms Bhutto said that as far as holding dialogue with the MQM was concerned, Sindh Chief Minister Sved Abdullah Khan had been meeting with its leaders. She said that the chief minister had also accepted almost all the ten demands of the MQM, including restoration of their telephones and providing necessary security to MQM leaders.

Informed sources said that the PPP government has rejected a fresh proposal to hold high-level talks with the MQM, the proof of which was the forceful statement of Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar against Mr Altaf Hussain. Mr Babar in his statement had said that Mr Altaf Hussain would be arrested the moment he landed in Pakistan and that the government would not allow the repetition of the Agartala conspiracy case.

Editorial Cites 'Policy Impasse' on Karachi

BK2103100495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Mar 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Policy Impasse on Karachi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It appears the government has backed itself into a policy impasse on the Karachi crisis. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, during her briefing to the President on this amongst other matters, reiterated her government's position that they were ready to hold a political dialogue with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], which most people now agree is the major factor in Karachi's instability, but could not allow elements involved in serious crimes to go scot-free. Meanwhile Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar, by once again categorically rejecting any notion of a political deal with Altaf Hussain and other MQM leaders, is proving to be the proverbial bull in a china shop. All this hard line sentiment, it is suspected, owes more to an out of proportion irritation with Nawaz Sharif's initiative to hold talks with Altaf Hussain in London than to a reasoned and objective appraisal of the policy options open to the government vis a vis Karachi. The PM and several of her irrepressible Ministers, amongst whom General Babar must be counted as first amongst equals, have, by setting the precondition that those they are prepared to talk to must come to the negotiating table pure as snow, scuttled any realistic expectation of a political settlement of the Karachi crisis. The fact is that it is the MQM, irrespective of some of its dubious past practices, with which real politik demands an accommodation in the given circumstances. The acceptance of the need to talk to Altaf Hussain is by no means confined to Nawaz Sharif. It is also the prescription of many other parties, including some of PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] own allies, and of a wide spectrum of public opinion. If the government has convinced itself, contrary to this considerable weight of opinion and the ground realities, that it cannot make peace with the MQM (which is what its position implies), is it aware that it also cannot make peace in Karachi without the MQM? In the unlikely event that Nawaz Sharif and Altaf Hussain are able to find a way out of the impasse, would any opportunity to restore peace not redound to the credit and the advantage of the incumbent government? Why then the angry tone in dismissing out of hand the efforts of Nawaz Sharif to open up a dialogue with Altaf Hussain? Is it a case of shooting the messenger without paying any heed to the message?

The government's present policy posture on Karachi is relying purely on administration measures, amongst which the latest is the virtual replacement of the suspect police force by the Rangers with powers of arrest, interrogation and prosecution of alleged terrorists. Those familiar with the Karachi scenario have expressed apprehensions about this step, in the absence of any simultaneous political initiative, further exacerbating the alienation of Karachi's populace, based on the experience of Operation Clean-Up. The government's concentration on showing an improvement in the law and order situation in Karachi before the PM leaves for the US may deceive it into complacency if the terrorists have merely decided to lie low while the drive is on (a logical step from their point of view). In that case the present relative improvement may be the harbinger of fresh storms. General Babar's insistence that an amnesty or Presidential pardon for Altaf Hussain is ruled out nevertheless begs the question whether the government is prepared to take up Altaf Hussain on his offer to return if he is allowed to appeal before a court in which he has confidence. Meanwhile the Sindh government's planned All Parties Conference [APC] has been postponed till March 26, interpreted by some as reflective of CM [Chief Minister] Syed Abdullah Shah's anxiety to see off the FPCCI's [Federation of Pakistani Chambers of Commerce and Industry] threatened strike on March 25. In any case this APC lacks credibility and is certainly no substitute for talks with the representative political forces in Karachi. PM Benazir Bhutto should review her government's present stance on the MQM and, pending that, not subject the Nawaz Sharif-Altaf Hussain parleys merely to the partisan exigencies of political contention.

Ruling Party Resolves To Eliminate 'Terrorism'

BK2303062895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Mar 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, March 22 (APP—The PPP Central Executive Committee (CEC) in its meeting here Wednesday [22 March] resolved to climate terrorism from the country with a heavy hand and said that Pakistan will never be allowed to become a sanctuary for terrorists.

The Central Executive Committee of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] had its first meeting after its reconstitution. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presided.

Party Secretary General Senator Shaikh Rafique Ahmed, Information Secretary Senator Kamal Azfar and Senator Shafqat Mehmood briefed the press after the six hour long marathon meeting of the main decision making body of the ruling party.

The CEC discussed a number of important issues being faced by the country including Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's forthcoming visit to the United States, government's drive against terrorism, Karachi situation, Kashmir, and trader's strike call and passed a number of resolutions.

The CEC in its resolution said, "Terrorism is a curse that would be eliminated with a heavy hand as a matter of principle. It said 'terrorism will be opposed whether it is domestic or international'.

The resolution said that if the crime was committed on foreign soil or against foreign nationals, Pakistan would not give sanctuary to such international terrorists and will have no compassion for reserve in handing over the terrorists to the country on whose soil, or against whose citizen the crime is committed. [sentence as published]

We will extradite the terrorists to the countries with whom we have extradition treaties and will not be apologetic about it. Senator Shafqat Mehmood replied to a question on the occasion. He said those commit crime in Pakistan will be proceeded against in Pakistani courts. He said Ramzi Yusuf was extradited to the United States because at that time his assassination attempt against Prime Minister Bhutto was not known.

The Resolution said the party believes in national sovereignty of Pakistan. "We are not followers of any country nor will we be dictated by any foreign power but this does not mean that the PPP government will succumb to blackmail". This is our principle stand. This does not mean there is any collusion, the resolution added.

Talking about the Prime Minister's visit to the United States Senator Kamal Azfar said "we are going there with modest expectations". He said the government wants to broaden its relations with the United States and added that there will be no bargain on F-16s. We have paid the money, we should get the aircraft or the money back, he repeated the oft stated policy on the issue.

Senator Azfar said the CEC also decided to form a committee to oversee the death anniversary celebration of the founding Chairman of the PPP late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The meeting also discussed Karachi situation and the Provincial Chief Minister [CM] Syed Abdullah Shah briefed the meeting about the situation. He said the CM said that though the situation was not satisfactory but was improving and efforts are bing made to bring the situation under control.

The Central Executive committee of the ruling PPP condemned the strike call given by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and said it will only inflict miseries on the people of Pakistan and play into the hands of enemies of the country.

The committee regretted that the leader of Opposition was trying to play the Karachi card and trying to make yet another London plan.

The CEC appealed to the people of Karachi not to be used once again as in 1977 and 1990 in order to satisfy the ambitions of an adventurer like Nawaz Sharif "who as a creature of dictatorship has no love for democracy and no sympathy for Karachi which has been the victims of his neglect and oppression."

In a separate resolution on Kashmir the CEC paid tributes to the valiant struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination and said that their fight for right to decide their fate through a plebiscite as envisaged under the United Nations Security Council resolutions is bound to succeed.

The CEC congratulated the government, and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for consistent moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir.

The Central Executive Committee also reposed full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

In a resolution passed the CEC said that it takes pride in the fact that Ms Benazir Bhutto, chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party, had provided a dynamic leadership to the people and has successfully handled the challenges with which the country is confronted.

Briefing the Newspersons after the meeting Party Secretary General Shaikh Rafique Ahmed said that the party was still united and dispelled the impression that after the announcement of Mir Murtaza Bhutto about formation his own faction of the PPP the party has been divided.

To a question about the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front], Senator Shaikh Rafique Ahmed said that the alliance was united as a rock.

Interior Minister Orders MQM Chief Arrested

BK2003061795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 20 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Interior Minister Naserullah Babar has reiterated the government's stand that there was no question of general amnesty for Altaf Hussain and other MQM leaders. He said Altaf Hussain would be arrested as soon as he arrived in Pakistan because the latter had been convicted by courts.

Talking to newsmen after a high-level meeting at the Presidency the Minister said the government would not allow another Agar Tala conspiracy to flourish aimed at weakening the country. He said the idea of amnesty was like ridiculing the whole judicial system. He was of the view that Altaf Hussain should first come back and face charges in courts to clear himself. But he would not be allowed to become a national hero, Babar commented.

He also declared that the government had decided to allow ageing Sindhi nationalist GM Syed to go abroad for medical treatment.

Asked about the extradited suspect of World Trade Centre bombing, Ramzi Yusuf, the Minister said the later arrests of his companions had revealed that he had also planned to assassinate Prime Minister Bhutto in 1993. He said the government would not try to bring back Ramzi for investigation but an effort was being made to get maximum information through the US probing authorities.

About the ransacking of the MQM's office in the capital, Babar said none of the government agencies were involved in it. But he added that the police had been asked to register an FIR [First Information Report] against the attackers. When asked about ASP's [Assistant superintendent of police] Maulana Azam Tariq, he said the MNA [Member of National Assembly] from Jhang would be arrested as soon as the came out of the hiding. He also said the arrested ex-Deputy Commissioner of Karachi Central was being interrogated in Islamabad for allegedly helping terrorists. PPI adds: The government Sunday allowed the Sindh nationalist leader G.M. Syed to go abroad for his treatment. The decision was made at a meeting held at Presidency under the chairmanship of President Farood Ahmad Khan leghari and was attended besides others by the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Interior Minister Naserullah Babar told reporters at his parliament chamber this evening that the Prime Minister issues directives to the concerned authorities to let G.M. Syed to go abroad for treatment if he desires so.

The health of G.M. Syed is deteriorating now a days and he is under medical treatment in Karachi. [sentence as published]

Haiqi Leader Condemns 'Massive Arrests'

BK2103125495 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi March 20: Mohajir Qaumi Movement (Haqiqi) Chairman Afaq Ahmad on

Monday [20 March] condemned the "massive arrests of Haqiqi workers" and a "smear campaign launched through the print and electronic media by the government to defame his party."

In a statement, he said his party would continue its mission against anti-Pakistan forces. "It is ready to offer more sacrifices for the security and integrity of the country," he added.

He said: "The law-enforcement agencies have so far arrested 750 Haqiqi workers in various city areas and witch hunting is continuing to arrest more workers."

"The growing influence of the US, its mysterious activities and interference in Pakistan's internal affairs are dangerous for the country's integrity. The Haqiqi has been opposed to the US involvement in our national affairs, for which it is being punished," he added.

In another statement, Haqiqi central committee denied that Ans and Fahim Nabi, whose names were telecast on PTV on March 14, had any link with the Haqiqi.

'Terrorist' Activities at University Investigated

BK2203111695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar: The government has launched investigations into reports of alleged connection of a global terrorist network with Dawa'tul Jahad, a Kabul-funded university run by Prof Sayyaf's Ittehad-i-Eslami, an ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

"The federal interior ministry has asked to verify allegations of terrorist activities at the Jehad university," an official source disclosed. The Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) which oversee the affairs of relief agencies and projects has been asked to submit a report. A high level meeting scheduled for March 15, to discuss the matter was later postponed. No fresh date has yet been set.

The source said investigations were ordered following 'very adverse' reports from Pakistan's premier intelligence agency—the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and Intelligence Bureau (IB). "The reports speak of organised military training to aliens," an official said. The most disturbing information, however, was the presence of a few citizens of a 'brotherly country' at the university. "Pakistan enjoys very good and brotherly relations, such reports indeed are disturbing," the source said who claimed that the foreign trainees were given code numbers to conceal their real identities.

An official of the CAR termed the reports a 'mystery' and informed that a similar verification exercise carried out in the past yielded nothing. Two CAR officials who undertook a 'surprise visit' to the university returned empty-handed. "We've a limited mandate it is for the security agencies to come up with facts," the official said. The New York Times in its recent issue linked the Dawa'tul Jehad to a 'global terrorist network' having alleged involvement in terrorist activities in the Philippines, Central Asia, Middle East and northern Africa.

Ittehad-i-Islami's spokesman in Peshawar Haji Bashsir denied the allegations. "This is baseless and a pack of lies," he said. "If we don't need to train people in Peshawar, we can do sit in Kunduz and Takhar." He also denied there were any expatriates at the university. "The only 'foreigners' we have are Pakistanis," he remarked. But a party magazine in its report said there were about 104 foreign students at the university, mostly from Tajikistan and Bangladesh.

Founded in 1985 by its present chancellor Prof Sayyaf, the male- only university has eight faculties and about 1,985 students provided with boarding and lodging facilities and monthly pocket money. Its monthly expenditure has been estimated at Rs [rupees] 4.03 million. "The Afghan ministry of higher education has been financing it for the last three years," Bashir said and added that a site for the university in Afghanistan has been chosen and it would very soon be transferred.

Article Considers Extradition of 'Terrorists'

BK2203085895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Mar 95 p 5

[Article by Musrat Jaweed under the rubric: "Senate Diary": "Of executive visit and extraditions to US"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Two professors of archeology, as a joke goes, were about to kill each other. They had developed differences over the exact age of a fossilized corpse. While they were quarreling, a personnel of the valiant Punjab police walked by. After hearing the cause of conflict, he dragged the human remains to his investigating chambers. He desired to be alone with the dead body for a while.

"The corpse you had found is from the period when Alexander the Great crossed Jehlum," pronounced the perspiring officer after getting out of his chambers. "How could you establish that," asked the overwhelmed professors. "The carcass confessed itself," niggardly replied the proud policeman.

The joke bounced in one's mind because Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was unable to say with confidence, throughout Tuesday, whether one of the two persons, brought to Islamabad from Quetta late last evening, was Aimal Kansi. Like Ramzi, Aimal is one of the most wanted ones in the USA. He is alleged to have run off to Pakistan after gunning down the CIA operators. That too very close to Langley, the blessed station clandestine wars in defence of the free world are waged from. Though ministers in the second Benazir government were not sure, most of the Senators from Balochistan insisted that Kansi was included amongst the two, brought to the capital in C-130 provided by the F-16 starved PAF [Pakistan Air Force]

Instead of being delighted over his capture, people like Hafiz Hussain Ahmad were implicit in trying to block his immediate extradition to the USA. Doing so, Secretary General of Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat-e-Ulma-e-Islam (JUI), Hussain Ahmad, was oblivious to the fact that his party is an ally of this government. Fazlure Rehman heads the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs. In this day and age of unipolar world the said office was conceded to Maulana, in spite of the allegations that he was nurturing the dream of correcting the world with "radical Islam". Though the "sensitive" information gatherers of this country accused Fazlur Rehman of rubbing shoulders with the likes of Sadddam Hussains and Qaddafis of this world he was bestowed with the priviledged position of monitoring the doings of our foreign office.

Yes, the same place which was once dubbed as the "bastion of American agents" by Hamid Gul, the man who "liberated" Afghanistan as head of the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence]

Senators like Hussain Ahmad have a point, if you view things from a different angle. Pakistan is supposed to be a sovereign nation of 120 million people. It is considered to be an independent state maintaining its own police and judiciary to check and punish the crime. "Sovereign" sentiments are rubbed on the wrong side when agents of the FBI are reported to be escorting our law enforcers for the arrest of suspects on the very soil of this country. FBI team is also perceived to be combing our territory in quest of the would- be terrorists since killing of the US diplomatic staff in Karachi. They are alleged to be guiding and monitoring the interrogation of suspects too. Visible signs indicate that many of those, arrested after leads gathered by the Americans, are to be dispatched to the USA for a deep probe, in as swift a manner as Ramzi was handed over to his arraigner.

Without an appropriate extradition treaty, Hussain Ahmed and his supporters demanded, the USA must not be pleased by sending off "criminals" it desperately needs. Hussain Ahmad and his comrades do not appreciate another thing, however. The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit the USA in the first week of coming April. The bankrupt elite of Pakistan want her to come back with pledges that Americans would at least deliver us the fancy planes we have already paid for. The privileged classes of this country wouldn't mind if in addition to this was also have it from Americans that Pentagon would act in our defence, if Indians decide to go for the "hot pursuits" to quash the rebellion they continue to suffer in occupied Kashmir. Since "there is no free lunch in the United States of America," everything under the sun is to be moved for the purpose of making her sojourn to the "land of opportunity" click. We have already given them Ramzi, the man who had tried to blast the tallest building in the world, WTC [World Trade Center] of New York. We handed him over despite the fact that the same Ramzi had also attempted to kill our own deliverer, i.e. Madame Benazir Bhutto [BB], way back in July 1993. What else can we do for them? "The daughter of the East" is not smaller in size and calibre than the World Trade Center as far as we, the hapless people of Indus valley, are concerned. Yet, we want that Ramzi should first be fixed for trying to play with the lives of super humans, residing in the hallowed USA. Gen (retd) Nasirullah Khan Babar was not willing to commit before a crowd of newsmen who were desperate to get it confirmed whether Kansi had been nabbed. He kept smiling to perpetuate the mystery. One had to restore to cynicism, therefore. "Who is interrogating the two picked from Quetta," asked a colleague. Babar got the hint and tried to evade with the claim that "we have a large number of sufficiently trained interrogators."

"One hopes that Numtaz Malik has not been assigned the job of investigating the terrorists," yours truly had to add. Mumtaz Malik, if you remember, came back to Pakistan after long years of self-imposed exile in London when Ms Bhutto went to the Prime Minister's house for the second time. He was given a job with the Federal Investigation Agency in a petty grade. Mumtaz, however, is a diligent chap. He desperately wanted to get even with Brig (retd) Imtiaz, the eyes and ears of Nawaz Sharif. Mumtaz and Imtiaz were thick.., you know like what once upon a time. But, they had been at each others' neck since the death of Gen Zia. Mumtaz wounded Imtiaz and Amir when BB was the Prime Minister last time. Imtiaz had his fill when the industrialist from Lahore made it to Islamabad. Mumtaz has the whip since BB's return.

As a small time minion of the FIA, Mumtaz arrested Imtiaz with the sensational claim that he would book him under Article 6 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Maj (retd) Amir and Malik Naeem Khan, the sitting MNA [member of the Natoinal Assembly] from Khushab were to face it too for "high treason". Mumtaz has still not been able to nab Amir and Naeem has never been interrogated as yet. Though Mumtaz could not live up to his boast of "protecting the democratic system for the times to come", he went to the press exactly a day afte Imtiaz's arrest. He tried to make the world believe that immediately after getting arrested, Imtiaz started telling his captors that which one of the journalists was getting money from the secret funds, put at his disposal as head of the IB [Intelligence Bureau] under Nawaz Sharif.

It was because of him that I came to know that Imtiaz had paid me Rs 2.2 million and that I had been using a "chauffeur driven" car provided by the Intelligence Bureau of Imtiaz. With officers of the caliber of Mumtaz, FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] can put more than a thousand people in line who would want to kill the rest to prove it to the Americans that each one of them was Aimal Kansi. Too bad that Mumtaz has been sidelined in the FIA. There rather are strong indications that he would be transferred to the Intelligence Bureau. In the bright company of Masood Sharif he is certain to produce miracles he could not while the FIA was still in somewhat professinal hands, amicable naivety of Nasirullah Khan Babar, notwithstanding.

Collaboration Planned With China on Jet Production

BK1803100795 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (PP)—China and Pakistan are to collaborate in the production of a combat aircraft of medium technology. Called the Super-7, it will come off the ground Insha Allah according to the programme, disclosed Air Chief Marshal M. Abbas Khattak, Chief of the Air Staff while talking to newsmen at a local hotel Tuesday at a reception hosted by the Shaheen Foundation, a subsidiary of the PAF [Pakistani Air Force].

The combat aircraft, which would be an upgraded version of the Chinese F-7 aircraft, already in the PAF inventory was expected to be ready in a couple of years.

The air chief said the K-8 trainer aircraft, a joint venture between China and Pakistan was currently undergoing evaluation trials. "We have plans to export this trainer aircraft to other countries. We will show it to the Gulf states also", he added.

Air Chief Marshal Khattak said the PAF was a very progressive force, and had been acknowledged the world over as one of the best professional force. The United States, apart from its own air force, lists those from Israel and Pakistan as among the three best in the world, he stated.

"We are not fully equipped in terms of equipment but in terms of professionalism we are very efficient. However, we received temporary setback due to the non-delivery of the F-16s by the United States due to the restriction under the Pressler Law".

He, however said: "We are finding solution to overcome this temporary setback and are looking for diversifying our requirements of equipment from other sources. We will go for the equipment which is best suited to the PAF", he stressed.

Air Chief Marshal Khattak, replaying another question said there was need for great deal of evaluation. "Options are available but these are not forthcoming easily. While the American source is closed due to the Pressler Amendment, the second one—Russia—is in difficulty these days. In addition India is lobbying against us", he added.

The air chief said the PAF was looking for equipment in the European marker, some of which was very expensive. "We are looking for the best and not very expensive equipment. We cannot commit for very expansive option due to our constraints", he added.

To another question, he said the Shaheen Airport Services, a project of Shaheen Foundation, had captured a major market of airport handling services of various airlines all over Pakistan. "We will maintain good standards to get more business".

APP adds: Earlier, the air chief visited the Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS) and saw the newly expanded facilities and equipment recently acquired by SAPS. He also attended a briefing about the future development, plans of the organisation and the Shaheen Foundation in general.

On his arrival at Shaheen Airport Services, the air force chief was received by the managing director of the Foundation, AVM (Retd) Javed Hayat Malik Air Chief Marshal Khattak met the staff of Shaheeen Hayat Malik. Air Chief Marshal Khattak met the staff of Shaheen Airport Services and also saw the latest equipment that is under use.

The SAPS has in the past few years come up as the largest ground handling agency in Pakistan. It gives out its services at the four major airports of the country. In 1993 it handled a record number of about 6000 flights. The organisation has all the necessary equipment to handle and service the modern passenger aircraft of today. It has in its clientele the leading airlines of the world, like British Airways, KLM. Royal Dutch Airline, Lufthansa, Swissair, etc. SAPS is handling about 50 per cent of the international flights coming to Pakistan.

Shaheen Airport Services has also charted an expansion plan which includes the setting up of technical services and airline catering facility. The Shaheen Foundation is also planning to acquire a major role for SAPS in the new cargo complex being set up at Karachi Airport and would be bidding for construction and operation of VIP/CIP and executive lounges at the airports.

Navy Chief Meets With French Defense Officials

BK2203141595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan Navy Chief Admiral Mansurul Haq has held extensive talks with the French naval chief and other defense ministry officials in Paris. Possibilities of further expansion of the existing cooperation between the navies of the two countries were also discussed. Later, Adm. Mansurul Haq was given a thorough briefing on the functioning of the French Navy. Following this, Adm. Mansurul Haq held talks with the secretary of defense and secretary of general defense. He also attended a function held in connection with the submarine being built for the Pakistan Navy.

Commentary Condemns Business Leaders' Strike Call

BK2303130495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 95

[Commentary by unidentifed Radio Pakistan Network correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The right-thinking people all over the country have advised the business community to call off the strike planned by them for 25 March and hold talks with the government for the redress of their genuine grievances. They maintained that problems are always solved through negotiations and actions such as strike calls tend to harm the economy of the country. Those who have condemned the strike call include representatives of several national organizations. In one of their meetings in Karachi yesterday, they opposed the strike call which has been instigated by a privileged group and designed to disturb the economic and political life of the country. The Karachi meeting was attended by the representatives of People's Unity, Pakistan International Airlines, Muslim Commercial Bank, Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, Port Qasim Authority, Karachi Transport Corporation, Civil Aviation Authority, Pakistan Telecommunications, Postal Services, Railway Workers Union, Shaheen Air, the Karachi Port Trust Union, and the KMC [Karachi Municipal Corporation].

In Faisalabad, the officebearers of the People's Traders Cell have also criticized the strike call. Similarly, the traders and business community in Islamabad have decided not to observe strike on the call of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Speaking at a largely attended convention of traders and industrialists at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday, the president of the chamber, Mr. Khalid Jawed, sought the consensus of traders and shopkeepers who refused to join the strike call. Mr. Jawed said that he had invited all the leaders of various trade associations for a collective stand on the strike call, as in the past some members of the Islamabad chamber had different opinions and the strike was partially observed by them. He said that the traders expressed solidarity, sympathy, and shared the grievances of the Karachiites, but observing strike would not solve the crisis. The commerce minister, Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar, while talking to businessmen at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Karachi yesterday, advised the business community to call off the strike as it was not a proper time for such action.

The Economic Coordination Council [ECC] meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto also reviewed the strike call and felt that it was unjustified. The ECC noted that the federation had given a similar call when the U.S. assistant secretary of state for energy [title as heard] was due to visit Pakistan in September last year, which had ultimately led to the signing of agreements worth $7 billion in the energy sector and now this call has come on the eve of the visit of the United States first lady to Pakistan. The ECC noted that a segment of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry was closely associated with the opposition and was using its platform for political purposes rather than for business. The objective was obviously to discourage foreign investment and undermine Pakistan's economic stability. The best the shutdown can achieve is to discourage and drive away foreign investors from the country. At a time when concerted efforts are being made to deal with terrorists and criminals for restoring peace in Karachi, it is in the interest of the business community itself to cooperate with the government for the purpose. A call for strike at this stage is detrimental to the national interests and would only go to encourage the enemy-backed terrorists and allow them to take undue advantage of it. The businessmen should talk to the government as traders for the redress of their genuine grievances but not involve themselves in politics. The federal ministers of commerce and finance have already been given the responsibility of meeting the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's leaders to persuade them to withdraw the call for a strike. It is hoped better counsel will prevail and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry will withdraw its call for a strike, as it can be harmful for the country and add to the miseries of the people of Karachi.

Sri Lanka

Minister Views Thrust of Foreign Policy

BK2003130195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new foreign policy thrust of the Chandrika Kumaratunga government is look towards Asia, particularly East Asia. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar says that it is now time to look towards the Asia-Pacific region and to get a place in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC. He stressed that the Nonaligned Movement has a deeper significance today as the world has ceased to be bipolar. It is coming together in a common forum of the fora of the world of the disadvantaged and of the underprivileged. The nonaligned forum provides a very good platform for the discussion on such matters.

Mr. Kadirgamar, however, was disappointed with the SAARC's [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] progress. Sri Lanka and SAARC countries at the various commissions are trying to work out arrangements including joint ventures.

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